

Chirac denies secret hostage deal

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac Sunday denied speculation that the release from custody of a man linked to bombings in Paris was part of efforts to free three French hostages in Lebanon. Lebanese-born Mohammad Mounir was freed Friday after a year in custody on suspicion of being chief ideologist of the Solidarity Committee for Arab Political Prisoners in the Middle East, which claimed responsibility for a 1986 wave of bombings in which 13 people died. A magistrate said there was insufficient evidence to warrant his continued detention. Mounir's release coincided with media reports that Chirac, a candidate in next month's presidential election, would fly to an Arab capital for talks on freeing the three — Marcel Carton, Marcel Fontaine, and Jean-Paul Kauffmann — who have been held by pro-Iranian extremists for three years. "The liberation of Mounir, which was the act of a judge, has no connection, remote, direct or indirect, with the problem of the French hostages or foreigners held in Lebanon," Chirac told a television interviewer.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Volume 13 Number 3742

AMMAN MONDAY MARCH 28, 1988, SHABAN 9, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Sach calls for end to hunger strike

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul-Hamid Al Sach has praised the courageous stand of the Al-Bireh-based Family Advancement Society Chairperson Samiha Salameh Khalil who is on a hunger strike in support of the uprising in the occupied territories and called on her to end her hunger strike. In a statement issued here Sunday, Sach said Khalil and her colleagues had conveyed their national message.

PLO fires rockets

SIDON (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Sunday it fired rockets at northern Israeli settlements to avenge two Israeli air strikes into south Lebanon. In a statement issued in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon, the PLO said its fighters fired eight Soviet-made Grad rockets into the Galilee settlements of Kiryat Shemona and Metulla.

Nir resigns

TEL AVIV (AP) — Amir Nir, prime minister Yitzhak Shamir's adviser involved in the Iran-contra affair, has resigned from the post, a government official said Sunday. The official told the AP that Nir has announced his resignation several days ago and that the resignation will take effect April 1.

Mitterrand remains ahead in opinion polls

PARIS (AP) — New public opinion polls published Sunday, the first since Socialist President François Mitterrand officially announced his re-election bid, show the incumbent remaining comfortably ahead of all his conservative rivals with about 58 per cent of the votes. The same polls, one by the Louis Harris Organisation and one by IPSOS, also indicate conservative Premier Jacques Chirac is widening his lead over former centre-right Premier Raymond Barre.

Baker: Iran-contra pardons unlikely

WASHINGTON (R) — White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, in a television interview broadcast Saturday, said it was highly unlikely President Reagan would issue a pre-trial pardon for former aides indicted in the Iran-contra scandal. Baker, interviewed by the Cable News Network (CNN), said Reagan was committed to allowing the legal process to reach a conclusion before considering pardons for former White House aide Oliver North and former National Security Adviser John Poindexter.

Shin Bet chief quits

TEL AVIV (AP) — The head of Israel's Shin Bet service resigned from the post after ruling over the agency for more than 11 years on two periods, the government announced Sunday. Yosef Harmelin, born in Vienna in 1923, joined Israel's secret service soon after the Zionist state came into being in 1948.

Cameroun beats Nigeria

CASABLANCA (R) — Cameroun beat Nigeria 1-0 (half-time 0-0) to win the 16th Africa Nations Cup soccer championship Sunday. Scorer: Kunde (55th minute penalty).

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Soldiers storm W. Bank village; 4 Palestinians killed

Mass arrests, economic siege fail to dent Palestinian revolt

MEITHALUN, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israel troops on a pre-dawn raid to arrest Palestinians shot and killed three Palestinians in this remote village Sunday and soldiers killed a fourth Palestinian in an incident involving an Israeli bus that blundered into an Arab town.

The deaths raised to 118 the number of Palestinians killed in 15 weeks of violent protests against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, according to U.N. figures. One Israeli soldier was being killed.

Soldiers entered this village of 6,000 some 65 kilometres north of Jerusalem overnight to arrest

down, "the commander of the force fired," the spokesman said. The army confirmed three Arabs were killed.

Villagers denied the soldiers were attacking. They accused soldiers of shooting at cars taking wounded to hospitals.

Ahmad Abdul Rahman, a village leader, stood near the cemetery with its three fresh graves and told the AP soldiers came to his home at 3 a.m. "and asked me to guide them to the wanted men."

He said troops arrested 10 to 12 men before shooting broke out.

A fourth Palestinian was shot to death when Palestinians attacked troops who came to the rescue of an Israeli bus in Safit, 30 kilometres north of Jerusalem, the army spokesman said.

Palestinians suspected of anti-Israeli activities, an army spokesman said.

The overnight raids are Israel's latest tactic to try to quash the Palestinian uprising.

As the soldiers were leaving, he said, Palestinians attacked them with rocks and iron bars. When a car tried to run them

PLO welcomes Shultz' talks with PNC members as important step

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq fired missiles into each other's capitals in a brutal long-range duel Sunday as fierce battles continued in northeast Iraq in strategic heights that overlook a key hydroelectric dam.

Shipping officials reported Iranian gunboats attacked the 24,529-ton Indian tanker Jainarayan Vyasa in the southern Gulf Sunday, wounding one crewman and setting it on fire.

The latest victim of the so-called "tanker war" was hit apparently in reprisal for Iraqi air raids on two tankers off Iran's Gulf coast Thursday night.

The Iraqis fired a long-range Al Hussein missile into Tehran, a city of six million, at 7.30 a.m. (0430 GMT) after vowing to "level Iran's cities," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Minutes later, another missile was launched on Tehran and two into the central city of Isfahan, ancient capital of the Persian empire, INA said.

The Iraqis said the missiles hit residential neighbourhoods, causing unspecified civilian casualties.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Revolutionary Guards fired two missiles at Baghdad, which has a population of five million, 10 minutes later.

The agency said the missiles were aimed at "two military targets" in retaliation for Iraqi missiles that hit Tehran Saturday, killing at least seven people.

Baghdad radio reported only one Iranian missile hit Baghdad, exploding in a residential district and demolishing houses, shops and cars. It said there were

"many civilians killed or wounded, including women and children."

The radio made no mention of a second Iranian missile.

Iraq has fired 120 long-range missiles into Tehran, Isfahan and the holy city of Qom, seat of Iran's religious hierarchy, since Feb. 29.

The Iraqis have reported firing 45 long-range missiles into Baghdad and dozens short-range projectiles into other Iraqi cities in that period.

Hundreds of civilians on both sides have been killed in the latest resurgence of the "war of the cities."

Tehran Radio reported that the Iraqis also fired four missiles at

(Continued on page 2)

Fateh controls 'Ain Al Hilweh security

SIDON (AP) — Fighters of the largest Palestinian group Fateh have established undisputed control over Lebanon's biggest Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon after a two-day wave of violence in which five people were killed, police said Sunday.

The latest victims were a Fateh member and a Palestinian woman killed Saturday in a shootout at the 'Ain Al Hilweh camp on the outskirts of the southern port city, police reported.

They said members of Abu Nidal's breakaway Fateh-Revolutionary Council opened fire on the Fateh fighter, identified as Haitham Diab, when he failed to stop at one of their checkpoints in the sprawling shanty-town.

Diab's killing touched off a

brief firefight between mainstream Fateh supporters and Abu Nidal's fighters in which the woman passer-by, Badaa Oweida, was killed in the cross-fire, police said.

There have been frequent clashes between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions, including Fateh, and Rival Syrian-backed factions as well as Abu Nidal's group.

Police said the latest wave of violence, which flared Friday prompted the PLO's military police, known as the "Armed Struggle Corps," to take charge of 'Ain Al Hilweh's security.

On Friday, gunmen ambushed the motorcycle of Fateh's military commander in the camp, Farid Hourani, killing him and two of

his bodyguards. Nine other Hourani aides were wounded.

Police said there was no link between Friday's ambush and Saturday's shootout.

"But the two incidents have led to an agreement to turn over the camp's security to the Armed Struggle Corps," a police spokesman said. He cannot be named in line with standing regulations.

Units of the force patrolled the camp's narrow alleyways on foot and in jeeps Sunday without challenge, police said.

The agreement was reached during a meeting late Saturday between Fateh's representatives, Abu Nidal's aides and the "popular committee" which runs the day-to-day affairs of the camp's 60,000 refugees.

U.N. officials also said the army cut off electricity supplies to the Deir Al Balah refugee camp, one of four Gaza Strip camps

In an attempt to break long-running commercial strikes, Israeli troops barred all Gaza shops from opening for the last three days, including food markets and pharmacies, residents said.

Several traders who violated the order were arrested, they said. A merchant who complained said the military governor of Gaza City told him shops would be closed at least until the end of the month.

U.N. officials also said the army cut off electricity supplies to the Deir Al Balah refugee camp, one of four Gaza Strip camps

(Continued on page 2)

King briefs Sytenko on talks with Zia

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday briefed a Soviet envoy on the outcome of his talks with Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq on Afghanistan during his recent visit to Pakistan.

The Soviet envoy, Mikhail Sytenko who is the Moscow's roving ambassador, voiced his country's appreciation of King Hussein's endeavours in this respect, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Sytenko was received by the King last week before the Pakistani trip to discuss the Afghan question. On Friday Jordan expressed satisfaction with the Soviet Union's decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday confers with Soviet envoy Mikhail Sytenko (Petra photo)

An official spokesman described the decision as a wise and courageous step by the Soviet leadership.

Cabinet reshuffles senior employees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday carried out reshuffles among government employees which included the appointment of Mu'taz Bilbeisi as Water Authority of Jordan secretary general, and Mahmoud Talhoumi as Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications secretary general.

The Cabinet ended the appointment of Abdullah Al Jazi as Ministry of Communications secretary general and appointed him as Hijaz Railway director general.

The Cabinet, headed by Prime

Minister Zaid Rifai, also appointed Ghazi Rifai as director general of the Post and Postal Saving Corporation and Mohammad Khair Mammar as Ministry of Youth secretary general and Mohammad Abu Tayyeb as Public Transport Corporation director general and Haidar Mahmoud as consultant at the Prime Ministry.

Ibrahim Mahadin, the present director general of the Public Transport Corporation was placed on the government's Retirement Fund while Ministry of

Communications Secretary General Mansour Ibn Tarif was put on partial retirement.

The reshuffles are effective April 1.

The Cabinet had earlier approved new regulations governing the affiliation of ministries with government departments and public institutions. It endorsed the kidney fund budget, the health insurance fund budget and an amended law to the Ministry of Information law as a result of the abolishment of the Department of Press and Publications.

Iran, Iraq step up missile duel; fighting intensifies in northeast

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday welcomed talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and two Palestinian leaders in Washington.

"We consider the meeting an important political step because it was between Shultz and two members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the highest legislative body in the PLO," said Bassam Abu Sherif, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian-Americans Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughud met Shultz Saturday and said they had told him the PLO was the legitimate representative of the Palestinians and any peace settlement must provide for Palestinian independence.

The State Department said Saturday Shultz would return to the Middle East next Sunday in a fresh bid to win acceptance for U.S. peace proposals for the region.

Abu Sherif told Reuters that Arafat had authorised Said and Abu Lughud to meet Shultz and they had reported on their talks to the PLO chairman.

He said their report was now being studied by Palestinian lead-

ers. He reiterated a PLO demand that it should attend any international Middle East peace conference on an equal footing with all other parties.

He said Palestinians wanted to end Israel's occupation of Arab territories and sought recognition of their right to self-determination, which he added was the key to real peace.

Israel opposed Shultz' meeting with the two Palestinians on the grounds that it violated U.S.

policy not to deal with the PLO. U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the Palestinians had conveyed no message from Arafat and had not described themselves as PLO representatives.

The U.S. peace plan calls for an international conference in mid-April followed by talks on interim Palestinian "self-rule" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and direct Arab-Israeli discussions.

Vanunu sentenced to 18 years in prison

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu was sentenced to 18 years in prison Sunday for spilling Israel's "atomic secrets" over the front page of a British newspaper.

A three-judge court, which last week convicted Vanunu of treason and espionage, could have imposed a maximum life sentence. Twenty scientists, including 12 Nobel Prize winners, had appealed for leniency.

Vanunu, 34, worked at Israel's top-secret Dimona nuclear reactor in the Naqab desert for nine years before telling his story to London's Sunday Times in September 1986. His trial was held behind closed doors.

Prosecutor Uzi Hasson told reporters the court considered the circumstances in sentencing Vanunu to only 18 years. He did not elaborate. Life imprisonment normally means 20 years in Israel.

Vanunu's brother, 26-year-old Asher, said the family would continue insisting on the prisoner's innocence.

"I feel an injustice was committed against him. The trial was not conducted legitimately. No-one was inside to see what was going on," he told reporters.

Under Israeli laws, the former nuclear technician could be freed for good behaviour as early as November 1998, at the age of 44.

Defence attorney Avigdor Feldman submitted a petition signed by the 20 scientists at a brief hearing before sentence was imposed. The court accepted the petition, and Vanunu himself briefly addressed the court.

"We appeal to the Israeli court to recognise that Mordechai Vanunu is a man of conscience, deeply disturbed by his role in a nuclear weapons programme, who first sought religious guidance and then decided to make public his concerns," the petition said.

The 20 signatories included the 1962 Nobel Peace prize winner American Linus Pauling and American astronomer Carl Sagan.

Arab Bank holds shareholders meeting

AMMAN — The Arab Bank held its 58th general assembly meeting at the Arab Bank headquarters in Amman under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Majid Shoman, the bank's board chairman.

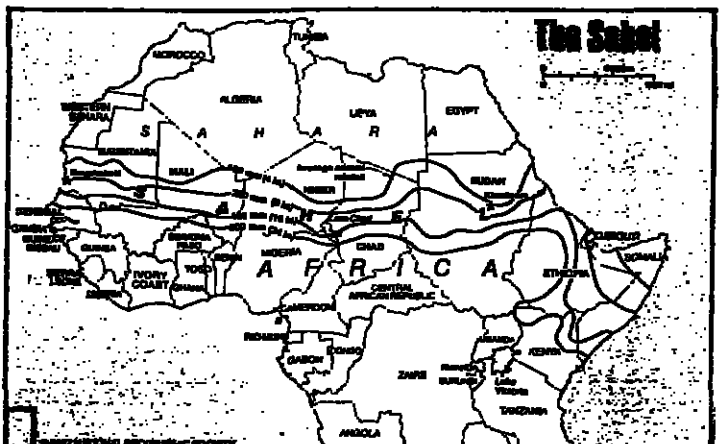
The meeting was attended by Mr. Radi Ibrahim, comptroller of companies at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and Arab Bank shareholders from various Arab countries.

The meeting discussed the bank's balance sheet, the profit and loss account and the board of director's report.

(See pages 4, 5 and 6)



Abdul Majid Shoman



Plague of locusts threatens North African agriculture

By Rachid Khairi
The Associated Press

GHARDAIA, Algeria — As the sun rises over this town on the edge of the desert, gradually increasing in warmth and intensity, the sky suddenly darkens and a shadowy cloud whirs in from the south.

Local residents and European tourists, snapping their souvenir photographs, stop and crane their necks upward.

A swarm of millions of small, grasshopper-like creatures pass over the town this Saturday morning. They are migrating locusts guided by some mysterious instinct and helped by the wind on their way north towards Algeria's prime agricultural area.

The ravenous insects, which can gather in swarms of more than 100 billion, threaten all of North Africa's long-term food supply with the greatest invasion in 30 years.

According to experts, the locusts have spread in the past few weeks over much of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Libya and could devour 20 to 30 per cent of the crops in the region.

Climatic conditions have been perfect for the locusts — heat, high humidity from abundant rain and wind.

The buzzing swarm passing over Ghardaia, 350 kilometres south of Algiers, swept by in five minutes. The scene is the same all over southern Algeria. Those who make their living from the land are forced to defend themselves, aided by their governments and a huge international effort.

Reminders of the past

Older folks here remember the ravages of 1954-56, when similar swarms came up from the Sahel, flying over this area to the high plateau to the north, attacking vegetation and devastating a large part of the fertile plains of Algeria.

Saturday's swarm did not seem to be too big, covering about 500 square metres, "but it can devour 60 tonnes of vegetable material each," said an agriculture expert working at the anti-locust command post in Ghardaia.

The struggle against the locusts began here at the beginning of the invasion in October, but the insects have been reinforced by new arrivals coming from Mauritania, reproducing at such a rapid pace that the emergency measures have been able only to slow the advance.

Experts say the locusts originated near the Red Sea, cross-

ed Sudan and Chad, through the Sahel countries, then began a vast northward movement, pushed along by winds and hunger.

International effort

Officials at the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) say that \$30 million has been donated so far by various countries, including the United States, Western Europe and the Soviet Union. But FAO says at least \$150 million is needed.

In Morocco, where several southern provinces and the Sahara territory are under siege by the insects, officials engaged

in the fight say they are facing two problems — the continued arrival of new swarms from neighbouring countries and the hatching of eggs laid during the last three months of 1987.

About 40 aircraft and 300 vehicles are being used in Morocco's anti-locust fight, several donated by the United States, France, West Germany and Italy. Morocco also has received supplies of pesticides from Portugal and Saudi Arabia.

Similar efforts are under way in Tunisia, where 21 aircraft have been mobilised and 50,000 hectares already have been treated. Swarms of locusts have

been sighted as close as 150 kilometres south of Tunis.

Health hazard

In a related problem, there have been at least 60 reported cases in the past week of people falling ill in affected areas of Tunisia, but officials said it was not known whether they were struck by the spraying or from eating sprayed locusts.

The Tunisian Agriculture Ministry has been attempting, through the media, to warn people against eating locusts, considered by some people to be a delicacy.

"Cases of illness are due to the non-respect of warnings about eating locusts," said one ministry official.

Enormous task

According to experts here, 300,000 hectares have been sprayed in Algeria, about 70 per cent of it by air, the only practical means in a country 4½ times the size of France. About 40 aircraft have been donated for the struggle.

The task is enormous. It also is vital because it is a matter of protecting the Algeria's "breadbasket" to the north. But as each swarm is destroyed, other are spotted a little farther on.

Open university opens the shutters

Sana Atiyeh reports on the prospects of Al Quds Open University.

AMMAN — Al Quds Open University (OOU), the first of its kind in the Arab World, has become known among the international network of distance education institutions, according to Shannon Timmers, director of International Development Office of the Open Learning Agency (OLA) of British Columbia in Canada.

Timmers, who recently visited OOU with two other Canadian specialists in distance education, told the Jordan Times that as far as he observed, OOU is doing just as well as any other similar institution in the preparatory stage, and expects it to begin operation on schedule in Oct. 88.

"The development of OOU with its successes and problems are experienced by every other distance education institution: The social acceptance, credibility, legitimacy, the requirements of the systems, and the technology, planning, developing and supporting of student activities," Timmers noted.

Timmers believes that though OOU might be facing some difficulties in starting their courses, "in three years from now, people will come knocking on the doors of OOU for expertise and material," he predicted.



OOU was initially aimed at Palestinians living under Israeli occupation and whose education is continuously disrupted by the authorities, but later expanded to provide higher education for people who could not enroll as full time students in the whole Arab World.

The project was initially financed by the Palestine National Fund (PNF), but according to the president of OOU, Dr. Walid Kamhawi, the university has not received any finances from the PNF in the past six months. The project is currently receiving financial aid from the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official recently admitted that OOU is not on top of their list of priorities, adding that they believe there are other important projects and allocations of funds to be made, especially with the current Palestinian uprising. The official added, however, that this project will be seriously reconsidered on their agenda of fund allocations.

Other Palestinians believe that



Al Quds Open University headquarters in Amman.

OOU should be regarded as an essential element in serving students in the occupied territories. They say that education is a major part of their struggle against the Zionist occupation, and that OOU will be able to cater for those who cannot continue their higher education in conventional institutions, either because they must work to survive or because their political activities take much of their time.

More funds needed

Keith Harry, documentation officer of the International Centre for Distance Learning at the Open University in the United Kingdom, said: "OOU could use more funding because it is quite expensive for any distance education institution to start off. Only when it starts working and during a certain stage of teaching it becomes a low-cost system. Because lot is saved for not having to provide the facilities needed in conventional on-campus universities."

Harry told the Jordan Times that the staff of OOU has a "tremendous amount of enthusiasm, and whether they will operate on schedule or not depends on their commitment." Harry, who is at OOU on a fact-finding mission and to offer his expertise, told the Jordan Times that the university needs to write the courses fast if it is to start on time. He added that it must have its registration system in place and have the student support ready, such as tutorial services, library and centre facilities.

The expert, who was on his way back to England after his visit from the Open University in Pakistan, noted that all open universities around the world have faced problems in the beginning because of their unconventional system, "there is usually strong

opposition against distance education. In the U.K. and Holland for example, it was ridiculed by conventional institutions and educators, because they thought the quality of education would not be of the same standard as conventional education and thought it wouldn't work," Harry recalled.

He added that now distance education is regarded as a respectable, necessary and successful means of teaching and it can be an answer to many different problems.

Fifteen years ago, there were one million people enrolled in distance education. Today, there are 12.5 million who are receiving their education and higher education degrees through this method.

The Arab World is the only region in the world that does not have a functioning open university. Besides countries in Europe and America and even Africa, there are major distance education institutions in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, China, Taiwan and Japan. Israel was one of the first countries in Asia that opened distance education to serve its citizens.

OOU aims and structure

OOU's main objective is not only to provide the opportunity for the largest number of Palestinian and young Arab men and women to obtain higher education and training, but also to democratise higher education in the Arab society, according to Kamhawi. "Through distance education, OOU will make higher learning and training accessible to the less fortunate among the socially and economically disadvantaged groups," he said.

After a feasibility study conducted for the project by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

(UNESCO) in 1980, it was found that only 35 per cent of those expected to apply between 1985 and 1990 to conventional universities and colleges will find places; and only 30 per cent between 1990 and 1995.

Kamhawi speculated that if financial resources and logistics were available, the university would be able to reach and teach approximately 60,000 students by 1991.

Kamhawi said that the open university will enable people to obtain their education while earning a living wherever they are, regardless of age, academic achievement or economic means. He explained that there will be regional centres to coordinate the work between the headquarters in Amman and the sub-regional and local centres. In addition, local study units will be established in cities, towns, villages, and refugee camps, if the optimum number of students is between 50 to 100, in order to maximise interaction between students and tutors, and among students themselves.

OOU will offer required courses in learning how to learn, Arabic and English languages, computer science, introduction to statistics, methods of scientific research, Palestine and the Palestinian problem, living with technology, human civilisation and its achievements, the Arab Islamic civilisation, and contemporary challenges in the Arab World.

The open university will also offer courses leading to specific degrees in technology and applied sciences, including electronic and mechanical engineering and informatics. Other degree programmes include home and family development, land and rural development, management and entrepreneurship, education and in-service teachers training.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SHOOTING ACES: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Saturday received a Jordan Shooting Federation team which returned home from Egypt after taking part in the first Arab shooting championship held last week. The team won three gold medals, five silver medals and 2 bronze medals.

WOMEN IN UPRISING: Former Information Minister Laila Sharaf addressed a press conference Sunday by a special women's committee for supporting the Palestinian uprising. Sharaf stressed women's role in supporting the uprising by holding bazaars, exhibitions and football matches to raise funds.

BLOOD DONATION: Friends of the Blood Bank at the University of Jordan Sunday launched a blood donation campaign, aimed at disseminating information on advantages of blood donation, and to encourage students to donate blood to the blood bank.

PILGRIM ISSUES: Ministry of Awqaf Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Sunday reviewed with the Pilgrimage Affairs Committee issues pertaining to transporting and accommodating Jordanian pilgrims during the 1988 pilgrimage to Mecca and stressed the pilgrims' interests to upgrade the standards of services rendered to pilgrims.

BULGARIAN TOURISM: Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni met in his office Sunday with a Bulgarian television crew now on a visit to Jordan to prepare a documentary on tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan to be shown by Bulgarian Television on Jordan's Independence Day, May 25. The TV crew later met with Minister of Information Ham Khasawneh who spoke on Jordan's information policy and the situation in the Middle East.

IZMIR SEMINAR: Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan left for Turkey Sunday to take part in a two-day seminar on planning and executing economic adaptation programmes in the Arab World organised by the World Bank. Ministers from Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Pakistan in addition to Jordan and a number of officials from the International Monetary Fund will take part in the meeting which opens today.

COUNCILS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber has decided to form municipal committees in Balqa, Zarqa, Karak and Mafrqa governorates and in Madaba district. The new municipal committees are in Karameh, Rawda and Kafrein in Balqa Governorate, Um Al Jimal in Mafrqa Governorate, Al Qasr, Rakin in Karak Governorate, Um Al Suflin in Zarqa Governorate and Jarinet Al Shawabkeh in Madaba district.

PRINCE RA'D: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Sunday presided over a meeting held at Nazik Al Hariri Special Education Centre, to discuss a special law on the disabled, prepared by the Labour and Social Development Ministry.

Israeli measures fail to dent revolt

(Continued from page 1)

under curfew, in an apparent attempt to punish the population for protests.

At Halhoul, near Hebron, Palestinians beat an Israeli bus driver and torched his vehicle, after Jewish settlers rampaged through the village firing automatic weapons and smashing windows, reports said.

Palestinian residents reported clashes after Sunday church services in Bethlehem, Ramallah, Beit Sahour and the Qalandia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem.

Troops in Ramallah smashed the windows of a freelance photographer's car with rubber bullets and fired tear-gas into the vehicle, witnesses quoted by Renter said.

The city of 30,000 residents was declared a closed military area. The Palestine Press Service (PPS) also reported severe clashes in

the village of Burka, near Hebron.

An army spokeswoman said she had strict orders not to dis close figures for the numbers of arrests, "administrative detentions" without trial or new prison camps opened.

Palestinian sources and international relief workers estimate that between 5,000 and 8,000 Palestinians are now under arrest.

Israel Radio said "many dozens" of Arabs were arrested in recent weeks on suspicion of taking part in protests.

Police also interrogated a number of left-wing Jewish activists implicated in anti-Israel demonstrations, the radio said.

Israeli officials said the arrests were an attempt to forestall expected unrest on Land Day, next Wednesday, when Arabs mark the anniversary of the 1976 killing of six demonstrators protesting against land confiscation.

PLO welcomes Shultz' meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Darabankhah.

Iraq blasted yesterday U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for his recent charge that Iraq appears to have used chemical weapons in the Gulf war.

Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun in a statement said the secretary general's statement was biased and "ignored a most important fact, namely Iran's occupation of

an Iraqi city despite Security Council mandatory Resolution 598 which called for a comprehensive peaceful settlement."

Hamdoun was referring to the northeastern Iraqi town of Halabja which Iran seized in a cross-border thrust last week.

Iran and Kurdish rebels charge Baghdad killed 5,000 people when it dropped chemical bombs on Halabja and other towns in Iraqi Kurdistan after Iranian troops captured them.

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17:15 Oliver Twist

17:40 Programme on Education

18:00 Local sports

18:45 Local programme

19:20 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic Series

21:30 Sports

22:30 Programme on film director Salah Abu Saif

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Carnaval De Bal

19:00 News in French

19:15 Weekly News (French)

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arc Yoni Being Served?

21:00 Rugs to Rights

22:00 News in English

22:20 Feature film: "A Star is Born"

RADIO JORDAN

ISS KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM

& purely on 95.60 KHz. SW

Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music

07:30 Newsdesk

08:00 Morning Show

10:00 News Summary

10:15 Just a Minute

11:00 My Music

11:30 Readings

12:00 News Summary

12:45 Pop Session

13:00 News Summary

13:45 Pop Session Contd.

14:00 News Bulletin

14:30 Special Feature

15:00 Concert Hour

15:40 News Summary

16:00 Instrumental

16:30 Old Favourites

17:30 Young Sound

18:00 Pop Session

18:15 News Summary

18:45 Sports Roundup

18:50 Music

19:00 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

21:00 News Summary

21:45 Evening Show Contd.

22:00 News Summary

22:45 Evening Show Continued

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Augustus Corp

Eq. By Himself 06:45 Reflections

06:50 Waveguide 07:00 World News

07:00 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30

The Weekend Cross 07:45 Recording

of the Week 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Six

Cities 09:00 World News 09:29 24

Hours: News Summary 09:30 The De-

spondent 10:00 World News 10:09

Reflections 10:15 Augustus Corp Eq

By Himself 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00

World News 11:09 British Press Re-

view 11:15 Good Books 11:30 Financial

News: Sports Roundup 11:45 Pee-

bles' Choice 12:00 News Summary

followed by Six Cities 12:30 The Vi-

ntage Chart Show 13:00 World News

13:09 News About Britain 13:15 The

Weekend Cross 13:30 Album Time

14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Just A

Minute 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00

World News 15:09 24 Hours: News

Summary 15:30 Anything Goes 16:00

News: Outlook 16:45 Cannery Row

17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 Six Cities

17:45 The Seven Ages of Man 18:00

World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15

The Unclaimed Promise 18:30 Chain

Reaction 18:45 The World Today

19:00 World News 19:09 Book Choice

19:15 Best on Record 19:45 Sports

Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:20 Multi-

media 21:00 News Summary 21:00

Summary, Outlook 21:39 Stockmarket

Report 21:45 Peebles' Choice 22:00

World News 22:09 Twenty-Fours:

News Summary 22:30 Sports Interna-

tional 23:00 News Summary followed

by The Weekend Cross 23:15 The

Unclaimed Promise 23:30 Vintage

Chart Show 24:00 World News

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,

11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA

Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline

07:30 7:00 Morning News 08:00

Newsline 16:30 Music USA 17:00

News 17:10 Focus 17:30 Special En-

glish News & Features 18:00 News

18:10 Newsline 18:30 Magazine Show

19:00 News 19:10 Focus 19:30 Special

English News & Features 20:00 News

20:10 Newsline America 20:30 Music

USA 21:00 News & Editorial 21:15

Music USA Jazz 22:00 News 22:10

World Report

TODAY'S EVENTS

Vian at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (runs through March 30).

EXHIBITIONS

* Egyptian Book Exhibition at the Professional Association Union.

* An art exhibition by Olivia Pallard at Alia Art Gallery (until March 28).

* Book exhibition at the Comprehensive Commercial Centre (Tower Building), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (permanent).

* General book exhibition at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani.

* Art exhibition by Samia Zarour at the Jordan National Museum of Fine Arts (until end of March).

* Art exhibition by Mohammad Boule and Mounir Al-Tunisi at the Housing Bank Gallery (runs through April 19).

* First School Arts Exhibition at Ahmad Toussan School. Open during school hours until June 1988.

* Exhibition for the Spanish artist Maria Dolores Travesedo at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until March 30).

* British Illustration from Caxton to Choe (runs through April 31) at British Council.

* An exhibition about French architecture at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Jordan (until March 29).

LECTURE

* "Experts for the World," by Dr. Dietrich Fischer at 7:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.

FEATURE FILM

* "Prize's Honour" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelpha Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelpha Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 623450.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweidbeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 601757.

Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lweidbeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 622366.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence tel. 601359.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.

Aransha Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church (Lutheran denomination): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 675534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.

JAZZ PERFORMANCES

* The Kevin Eubanks Trio are visiting Jordan March 23 through March 29. The trio, a guitarist, bassist and drummer, perform an energised brand of contemporary jazz. For more details on the trio's performances, please call the American Centre.

THEATRE

* Les Batisseurs D'empire de Boris

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:15 Aqaba (RJ)

09:20 Larnaca (RJ)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)

09:30 Damascus (RJ)

09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

09:30 Kuwait (RJ)

09:40 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)

09:50 Dhaifan (RJ)

09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

16:45 Cairo (RJ)

17:35 New York, Vienna (RJ)

17:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

18:45 Bangkok (RJ)

24:00 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:20 Sana'a (LH)

09:30 Baghdad (IA)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)

09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

09:30 Kuwait (RJ)

09:40 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)

09:50 Doha (RJ)

09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

16:45 Cairo (RJ)

17:35 New York, Vienna (RJ)

17:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

18:45 Bangkok (RJ)

24:00 Baghdad (RJ)

PRAYER TIMES

13:30 Bahrain (GF)

14:35 Kuwait (KU)

20:15 Baghdad (IA)

06:30 Paris (AF)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Sunday rates

Local sell/buy rates in Jds

Belgian franc 95.5/ 96.9

Dutch guilder 178/ 180.7

French franc 36.9/ 39.8

Italian lira 27/ 27.4

Japanese yen (for 100) 267.8/ 272.3

Swedish crown 36.5/ 37.3

Swiss franc 241.5/ 245.3

U.K. sterling pound 615.8/ 626.7

U.S. dollar 334.3/ 339.2

W. German mark 190.8/ 203.3

W. PARTURES

RC AL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Term. 1al)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)

11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:30 Paris (RJ)

11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)

12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)

12:30 Cairo (RJ)

19:00 Jeddah (RJ)

19:30 Kuwait (RJ)

19:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

19:30 Baghdad (RJ)

20:15 Cairo (RJ)

20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be rather fair and sunny with a slight rise in temperature in the north, moderate wind in Aqaba. It will be northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 6/ 19

Aqaba 14/ 29

Deserts 6/ 21

Jordan Valley 10/ 25

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

05:30 Cairo, London (BA)

08:15 Beirut (MEA)

10:10 Frankfurt (LH)

10:20 Cairo (MS)

10:20 Vienna (IA)

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15.5, Aqaba 26.7. Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

NIGHT DUTY

Amman governorate 891228

Amman Civil Defence 198, 199

Civil Defence Irbid 371295, 273131

Civil Defence Qusweish 770733

Civil Defence Deir Alla 373006

Ambulance 193, 775111

Amman downtown fire brigade 198

First aid 630341

Blood Bank 778303

Civil Defence rescue 661111

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 649495

Shmeisani pharmacy 657660

TAXIS:

Sa'id taxi 8896434

Badawi taxi 792511

Aqrabi taxi 892930

Kayali taxi 786030

Iyad taxi 740317

Ma' in taxi 895364

QUEEN ALIA INT. AIRPORT (08)533030/61

IRBID:

Dr. Amin Abu Eidh 244468

Sharna pharmacy 279525

ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijawi 985445

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Akshik Maternity, J. Amn 642414

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Hospital, Shmeisani 6641714

Shmeisani Maternity 669131

University Hospital 845414

Al-Musaber Hospital 6672749

The Islamic, Abdah 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Islamic, Al-Muhajreen 7710103

Al-Badri, J. Ashrafieh 771154

2nd Army, Marja 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 002240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

GENERAL

Jordan Television 77311/19

Radio Jordan 77411/19

Ministry of Tourism 642311

Hotel complaints 666412

Price complaints 661176

Telephone information 12

Jordan and Middle East calls 10

Overseas calls 17

Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple (French) 420 / 360

Apple (green) 470 / 400

Banana 350 / 300

Banana (Mokhammad) 300 / 240

Beans (brock) 330 / 300

Cabbage 200 / 150

Carrot 250 / 180

Cauliflower (white) 220 / 180

Cauliflower 280 / 220

Eggplant (large) 280 / 220

Eggplant (small) 300 / 250

Garlic 140 / 100

Garlic (green) 160 / 100

Lemon 200 / 150

Marrow 300 / 250

Onion (green) 160 / 120

Onion (dry) 220 / 170

Oranges (local) 220 / 160

Oranges (Shammouti) 320 / 260

Peas 400 / 350

Pepper (hot) 640 / 580

Pepper (sweet) 420 / 350

Potato 120 / 180

Radish 80 / 50

Spinach 140 / 100

Tomatoes 230 / 160

Turnip 170 / 130

Ceremony to inaugurate broiler chicken project

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony will be held in Azraq, north east of here, Tuesday for the official inauguration of a project for the production of broiler chicken under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The project, initiated in 1986 by the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Wealth (ACDAW), is currently producing 415,000 egg-laying hens, six million broiler chickens for meat and seven million table eggs, according to Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Saleh Al Lawzi.

He said that when the project goes into full production a total of 13 million eggs will be hatched annually.

Lawzi said the project consists of eight different units one of which is used as a laboratory for conducting tests, and one contains services and administration buildings and workers residential quarters.

He said Jordan was chosen for the project in view of its central

location within the Arab World and due to the facilities it offers for transporting the products by land and air to various countries in the Gulf and the Mediterranean regions.

The ACDAW plans to undertake commercial, industrial and agricultural activities related to the production of poultry meat and eggs, and carry out other activities related to the project.

The ACDAW has established three important poultry projects, one in Saudi Arabia, which has a capacity of six million chicken a year, the other in Qatar with a capacity of 3.2 million chicken and 26 million eggs annually, and the third in Sudan which has 2.6 million chicken and 15 million egg capacity every year.

Lawzi said despite the production of many Arab countries still depend on foreign imports of chicken and eggs, and for this reason the ACDAW has decided to increase production by launching this project in Jordan.

Experts call for more care in teaching Arabic

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar organised by the Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) on the teaching of foreign languages and their effect on Arab children, heard calls for more attention and care to be given for the teaching of Arabic.

One of the participants, Dr. Nasrat Abdul Rahman, said that there was no need for Arab children to start learning a foreign language at the elementary level, for fear it would reduce the student's ability to learn the mother language on solid basis.

Abdul Rahman said that a foreign language could be taught once the students have had a very good command of their own language.

He urged educators and concerned authorities to reexamine the philosophy of teaching another language at this stage.

Another participant was Dr. Mohammad Awwad, who said that Yarmouk University students were suffering from poor Arabic, and that more stress should be laid on Arabic teaching at schools before the students reach the university level.

Seminar debates specifications in various Arab countries

AMMAN (Petra and J.T.) — A five-day seminar on developing the activities of standardisation and metrology departments in the Arab World opened in Amman Sunday.

The participants will discuss working papers on standards and specifications in various Arab countries and means of removing obstacles impeding them.

Addressing the opening session was Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbara, who said that his ministry was undertaking measures for coordinating national efforts in support of standardisation and metrology for the sake of promoting national industry.

"Unifying standards and specifications should be the task of all commercial, industrial and scientific institutions in the country, which, ought to take part in the pan-Arab efforts for laying down unified specifications and standards for the Arab World," Tabbara said.

The seminar which was organised by the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) is being attended by specialists from Arab and foreign countries.

AOSM Secretary General Mahdi Hannoush, who addressed the meeting, underlined the importance of unified standards for the Arab World. He said that the vast growth and fast developing industry and technology in developed nations make it incumbent on the Arabs to undertake measures to unify their specifications and measures for their industries.



Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbara Sunday opens seminar on activities of Arab World Standardisation and Metrology departments (Petra photo)

Wit, dramatic scenes dominate French play

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The French Cultural Centre of Amman (CCF) presents a play, by French writer Boris Vian, "Les Bâtisseurs d'Empire," at the CCF theatre, at Jabal Weibdeh, Amman, on March 28, 29 and 30, at 8:00 p.m.

The play tells the story of a family, father, mother, daughter and a maid, constantly running away from a mysterious and undefined entity called "Schmurr." They keep moving up from one floor to another, always to a smaller apartment. At each stage one of them disappears, until the father is alone with the Schmurr, with only one solution left for him.

Alternating humour and anxiety, witty and highly dramatic scenes, Vian very efficiently produces a dramatic atmosphere. The contrast between the funny and the serious parts makes the latter even more tragic. The Schmurr, the family is running away from, symbolises all the negative and dark, black side of the self-consciousness of the father and the mother, it keeps reminding them of their failures, in spite of all the beatings they give him.

Though they desperately try to forget the past and make believe that everything is going fine, their daughter, Zenobia, rejects all their attempts and keeps a relatively clear view of the situa-

tion. The already fascinating subject is admirably supported by the actors. Francois Leroux is the father, Muriel Musallam the mother, Sylvie Leroux the daughter, Gaynor Peridakis the maid, Jean-Francois Dobelle a neighbour and last but not least, Denis Gaillard is the Schmurr.

Gaillard is also the director and producer of the play, while Olivier Mettillod and Jean-Michel Coste worked on the set decoration and on the sound and lights system.

Leroux, Peridakis and Gaillard have already a sound stage experience. The others are newcomers to the theatre world. All of them deliver a more than convincing performance.

Only a few minutes after the beginning of the play the audience is kept on high tension and contrary to what is apparently expected, the audience is kept in a "thriller" atmosphere. But unlike most thrillers who are easily forgotten once out of the theatre, "Les Bâtisseurs d'Empire" will keep you thinking of it for some time after.

This play is the fifth in a series which was initiated three years ago by Philippe Le Gal at the CCF, definitely one of the most active and dynamic cultural centres in Jordan, and which seems to always draw a wide audience. The tradition is expected to be continued in the years to come.

Tickets are JD 1 and admission is free for the CCF students.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday meets with 27 American professors currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Queen meets group of U.S. professors

AMMAN (Petra and J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met at Basman Palace Sunday with a group of 27 professors from the Joseph Malone Faculty who are taking part in a programme on Arab and Islamic studies in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and North Yemen.

The Queen and the visitors reviewed bilateral cooperation in cultural, historical and scientific fields between Jordanian and American universities, with both sides stressing the importance of visits by academicians from both

countries as a means to enhance cooperation.

The professors, who represent universities in Alabama and Ohio, are here in the course of a programme organised by the Council on U.S.-Arab Relations which was established in 1984.

The programme provides American educators with an opportunity to visit the Arab World, and gain first-hand insight into the region and its people and later to relay and integrate this experience in their academic and professional programmes.

During their stay in the Arab countries participants receive instruction in Arab culture and history, contemporary Arab society, Arabic language and Islam.

They attend lectures and briefings by government officials and specialists, meet with academic counterparts at host universities, and visit the country's historical and cultural sites.

The visit to Jordan was planned in coordination with the Arab Cultural Association, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University.

NAF distributes JD 67,000 for 300 families

AJLOUN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) office in Ajloun last year distributed JD 67,000 to 300 needy families in Ajloun district, in urgent and regular financial aid, according to the office Director Ibrahim Rababa.

He said this year the office has allocated JD 25,000 to be paid to needy families in regular monthly financial aid.

Rababa said that the office set up a national committee from Ajloun district last January to

help the office define the needy families and distribute allocations to them.

This year Rababa said the NAF office in Ajloun plans to carry out three projects for rehabilitating handicapped persons at the total cost of JD 25,140.

University to get British Council assistance

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University and the British Council in Amman have signed a document providing for technical assistance to the university from the British Council, financed by the European Community.

Under the agreement a programme of visits by teachers from Yarmouk University and British

and Belgian universities will be launched and joint research will be carried out, according to Dr. Mohammad Abu Saleh, dean of Yarmouk University's Department of Sciences.

The programme also allows technicians from the European Community to visit Yarmouk University and help with the

establishment of faculty of science workshops.

The agreement was signed by University President Mohammad Hamdan and British Council Representative in Amman David Latta.

U.S. jazz trio renders brilliant performance

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The great American guitarist, Kevin Eubanks and his trio started off a series of concerts in Jordan by playing at the Amra Hotel, in Amman Saturday, March 26, before a crowded audience. Another similar performance was due Sunday March 27 at the Amra Hotel and a third one is scheduled for Monday, March 28, at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

Eubanks belongs to the generation of young guitarists who can display an amazing level of technical virtuosity. He is currently one of the guitar "stars" in the United States, and his name has been connected to giants like George Benson and other jazz musicians. His album "Sund-

ance" has been listed by the French magazine Compact as a reference work.

The first performance at the Amra Hotel, though surprisingly short, confirmed Kevin Eubanks as a guitar master. However, and as the sun should not prevent us from seeing other stars in the sky, tribute must also be paid to the drummer and the bass guitarist playing with Eubanks who were absolutely brilliant. The band played beautiful, clean, modern jazz, chaining one number to the other without introducing any of them to the audience.

Kevin Eubanks played at a relatively low volume, using a sophisticated set of what is technically referred to as "expression pedals," often enhancing the volume — one which gives the guitar the sound of string instruments.



The father before his disappearance (Photo by Aline Talatinian)



The neighbour's visit (Photo by Aline Talatinian)

Fund grants JD 6m loans to 525 teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — A special fund set up in 1980 to help finance housing projects for Ministry of Education officials and teachers in government schools, has so far granted 525 employees loans totalling JD 6 million, the fund's Director Hamdan Al Daba'i said Sunday.

He said the fund started lending operations in 1983 has at least 7,500 subscribers from the East Bank and 1,000 from the West Bank, all of whom pay monthly subscriptions for at least one year before being entitled to obtain loans.

Each subscriber pays JD 10 plus five per cent of his or her total salary every month for at least one year, before applying for loan with which to finance the construction of a home or buy a ready made home or flat, Daba'i said.

For subscribers to obtain such a loan, they should have been paying regular subscriptions, must not have their own homes, and must submit documents proving that the purchase of, or the

construction of, a projected home is to be carried out with the help of the fund's loan, Daba'i explained.

He said that once loans are granted to a subscriber, they can pay back in monthly instalments without interest, for a period not exceeding 20 years.

Daba'i said that the fund was set up upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein who, in a speech on Teachers Day in 1975, announced that teachers would be helped to own their homes through government assistance.

The King said that plots of land were to be assigned for teachers' housing estates in various areas where teachers can establish their own homes on both banks of the River Jordan.

According to Daba'i the fund draws its sources from subscriptions, loans with government guarantees, contributions and the fund's investments.

He said subscription to the fund is not compulsory and once an employee's job is terminated through resignation or dismissal subscription automatically comes to an end.

The fund's management has laid down rules by which a loan can be extended to a beneficiary, and priority is given to subscribers with the longest service with the ministry, depending on the fund's resources and available amounts of money collected from subscribers, Daba'i noted.

He said in case a man and his wife happen to be both ministry employees their application will be treated as one and given a loan to build their home.

Daba'i appealed to employees to take time before applying for loans since available funds are limited now, but he said the door is still open for all who wish to subscribe to the fund.

Khasawneh receives U.N. delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — A 10-member United Nations fact-finding mission, now on a visit to Jordan, met Sunday with Minister of Information Hani Al Khasawneh and discussed the Palestine issue and other aspects of the Middle East problem.

Khasawneh briefed the delegation on Jordan's firm policies with regard to the Middle East question and the establishment of peace.

He also answered questions about Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the current Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the latest U.S. peace proposals.

The delegation members who arrived here Thursday met Saturday with the ministers of occupied territories affairs and labour and social development to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Later Sunday the delegation members were received by Chairman of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs Akram Zuaiter, who reviewed with them the Israeli violations of human rights and the oppressive measures against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

Zuaiter called on the delegation to convey their findings to the whole world.



Minister of Information Hani Al Khasawneh receives the United Nations fact-finding mission in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

The committee's Secretary General Fayed Jaber briefed the delegation on the Israeli terrorism and the Israeli encroachments of the holy places.

Jaber also submitted to them a list of 394 cities and villages in Palestine which the Israelis have demolished, and also presented a document showing the Israeli measures to Judaize Jerusalem and obliterate its Arab and Muslim identity.

Also receiving the delegation were Lower House Deputy for

Jerusalem constituency Fuad Farraj and Chairman of the Islamic Organisations Council Kamel Al Sharif, who briefed them on the Israeli oppressive measures against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, and the tight restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on journalists with a view to obliterating the facts about the situation in the occupied territories. Jerusalem Committee member Archbishop Salim Al Sayegh also briefed them on the sufferings of people under Israeli occupation.

Saab 340's low exhaust pollution confirmed

A RECENT study by the Swedish Board of Civil Aviation (LFV) environmental specialist, Jan Westerberg, has confirmed the "good neighbour" low exhaust pollution levels of the Saab 340. These have been proved comparable to a catalyst-equipped automobile, based on emitted grams of hydrocarbons (HC) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOX) combined.

Both HC and NOX emissions are causes for concern worldwide by governments and environmental protection agencies alike. The

former pollutant causes not only the foul smell at and around airports, but associated contributory problems of forming smog and excess ozone. The latter has significant acidification effects and the combination of the two leads to compound problems — amongst them the death of forests.

Whilst aviation generally is but a marginal contributor to overall pollution — especially forest death and acidification — LFV assessed the Saab 340 against two

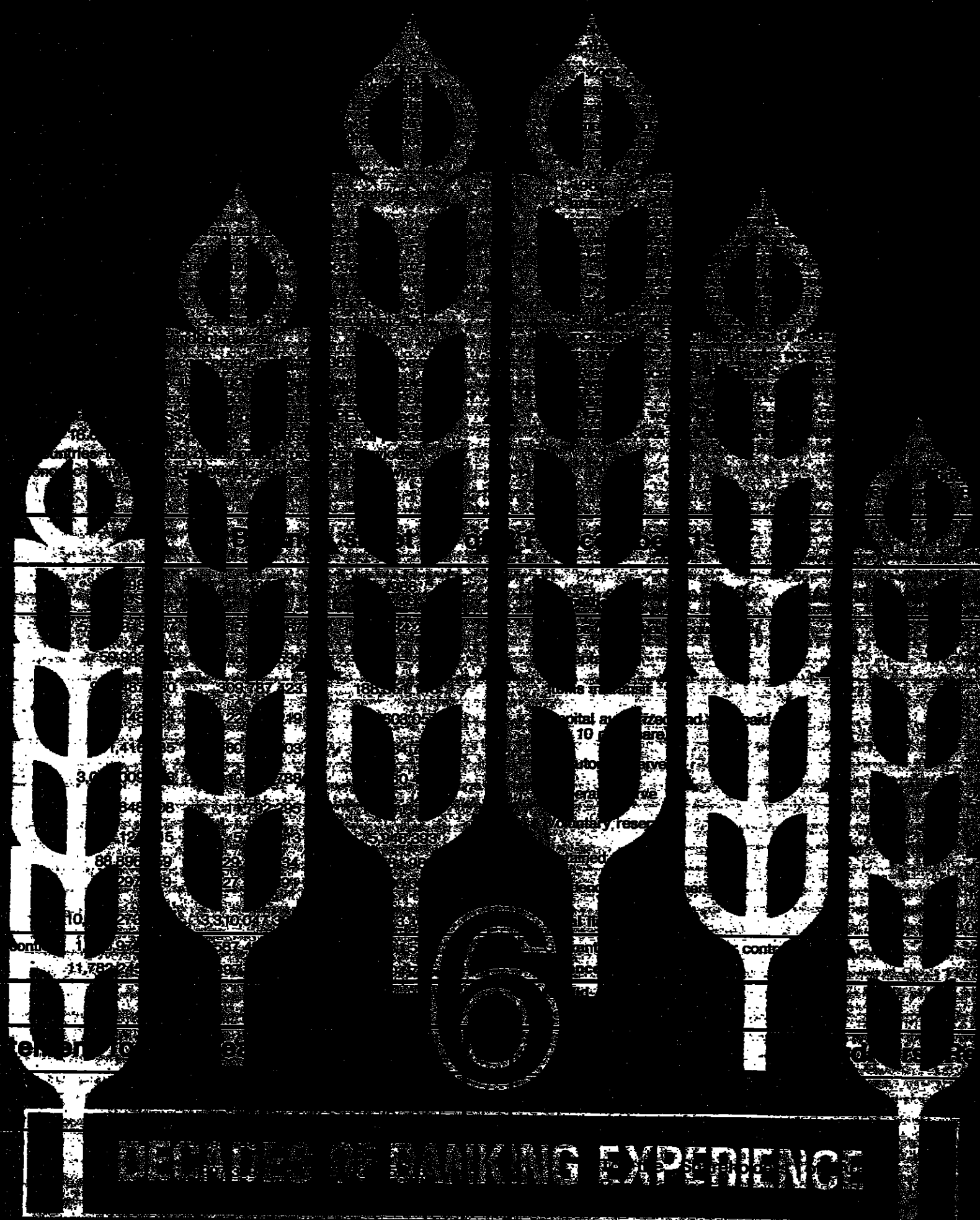
other airliners in daily use on Sweden's regional routes, the F-28 and the DC-9.

Not only does Mr. Westerberg favourably compare the Saab 340 in terms of exhaust cleanliness to that of a catalyst-equipped automobile, but also cites noise as an associated hazard. Here again the Saab 340s also score — to the everlasting relief of residents close to airports served by 340s in service with 27 airline and corporate users, day-in, night-out, on four continents.



QUIZ NIGHT: British Airways Manager Eric Burdon presents a giant size cheque (courtesy of Grindlays Bank) for JD 2,034 to Her Royal Highness Princess Mafda for the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. Everybody "had a wonderful time" that was the overwhelming response from all those who attended the British Airways' first Quiz Night last Thursday at the Marriott Hotel. Participants quickly entered into the spirit of the event which was held to raise money for the Al Hussein Society. Between answering challenging questions put to them by English comedian Peter Jones, there was a continuous stream of door prizes and 5 major raffles. With a short break for supper, the evening came to climax with Mr. Abdullah Kafana becoming "Genius Of The Year" for the top prize of a fantastic holiday to the Land of Disney for

two, travelling First Class with British Airways and staying at the Marriott World Centre with an added stopover in London, the value of which exceeded JD 3,900.00. The runner-up was Hussein Dabbas who received 2 Club World tickets to London with a stay at the London Marriott, and third was Marwan Salfit. "It was even better than we had planned," said Burdon. "and my sincere gratitude must go to all the people who contributed so generously including Marriott Hotels, Spinneys, Jordan Jewellery Co., Jordan Marketing and Naim Al Far & Co." Prizes for the top tables of the night were; Easter weekend in London, a weekend trip to Cairo (both for 10 people travelling BA and staying at Marriott Hotels) and dinner for 10 at the Marriott Al Walima Restaurant. No-one left empty handed as "Goodie Bags" were handed out to all as they left.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 58th Annual Report

Dear Shareholders

We are pleased to submit our 58th Annual Report together with a brief economic survey of 1987.

World Economy

Economic growth in industrial countries continued in 1987, but at a lower rate than in previous years. On the other hand, the disequilibrium in international balances and the debt of the U.S. budget, together with the caused severe fluctuations in financial markets, which affected stock prices and foreign exchange.

The average annual growth of the Gross National Product of industrialized countries was 2.7% in 1987 against 2.7% in 1986. Unemployment rates declined on average to 7.8% compared to 8% in the previous year. The unemployment rate in the United States fell to 6.7% for the first time in the last six years. In Great Britain, the unemployment rate fell to 10.3% from 10.5% in 1986 figures. Global inflation was at 3.3% in 1987 compared to 3.4% in 1986.

The continued decline in economic growth in industrial countries, and the stagnation in commodity prices, are reflected in the Less Developed Countries (LDCs). This was negatively affected on the trade balance of these countries, especially the non-oil producing ones. Increasingly, the imbalances of the LDCs augmented dramatically.

The disequilibrium in trade balance among major industrialized nations (United States, Japan, West Germany, France, and Italy) was one of the major negative factors in the world economy. The United States trade deficit was approximately US\$ 171 billion. On the other hand, the trade surplus increased in Japan and West Germany. Moreover, the deficit in the United States budget reached US\$ 148 billion. This deficit is financed mainly by foreign investments. To face inflation and to finance the deficit in the Government budget, the United States tightened their monetary policy, increasing the interest rate of the dollar. Consequently, the prices of stocks and bonds declined drastically on a worldwide basis. This unprecedented fall in stock prices was linked by investors' fear of protectionism, especially in the United States. The direct losses in the stock market were approximately US\$ 19 billion. The indirect losses are predicted to be around US\$ 200 billion. Consequently, the Federal Reserve was forced to increase liquidity and lower the interest rates. This caused the value of the dollar to decline over time against all major currencies. The dollar lost on average 17% of its value in 1987. At the end of the year, most of the central banks

in the world had intervened to support the dollar. The dollar's value against the Japanese yen fell to 160 yen per dollar, its lowest level since 1980.

The oil price continued to rise in 1987, reaching a peak of US\$ 25 per barrel in October. This was due to the OPEC decision to increase production and the OPEC's decision to raise the oil price by 10% in November.

Economic growth in the oil producing countries was slow in 1987. The Gross Domestic Product of these countries is expected to grow by 1% in 1987, in real terms, compared to 1.5% in 1986. By the average of 1987, the oil price is expected to be around US\$ 18 per barrel. The significant decline in oil prices affected the economy of the oil importing countries. In 1987, the oil price plunged from US\$ 25 per barrel to US\$ 10 per barrel. Some Arab oil producing countries were unable to cover their expenses and were forced to use their reserves. The oil price dropped back to approximately US\$ 18 per barrel after OPEC agreed to produce a ceiling of 16 million barrels per day. Short-term economic activities and growth in general were below what we had hoped for.

We face that necessary measures will be taken to solve worldwide economic and political problems. International relations in general should remain flowing to the economic agreement between the two superpowers. We also have high hopes for economic growth and stability in the Arab world. Our Staff continues to work hard to provide the best service to our customers.

The Bank's financial performance in 1987 was satisfactory. The Bank's assets increased by 10% compared to 1986. The Bank's liabilities increased by 12% compared to 1986. The Bank's capital increased by 15% compared to 1986.

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The Bank was able to contain operating expenses within acceptable limits despite new services made available to the customers and additional geographical coverage. In 1987, operating expenses were 41.8 Mio JD, compared to 43.5 Mio JD in 1986. Operating expenses for the Group reached 165.3 Mio US\$ against 149.5 Mio US\$ in the previous year. The average annual increase during the last five years was 3.5% for the Bank and 3.2% for the Group.

The Bank's assets increased by 10% compared to 1986. The Bank's liabilities increased by 12% compared to 1986. The Bank's capital increased by 15% compared to 1986.

It is your management's constant goal year after year to improve the Bank's equity ratios, taking into consideration the growth in deposits and assets. Since equity ratios of the Bank comply with the requirements of the Jordanian Banks' Law, the Bank's management has been able to maintain the Bank's equity ratios at a level of 100%.

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DECADES OF BANKING EXPERIENCE

erating branches in the West Bank of Jordan and Gaza strip. Early in 1988, 2 new branches started operations: one in Amman and one in Cairo. Another branch will soon start operations in Italy.

The geographical distribution of the branches is depicted in the following schedule:

Area	Number of Branches 1987	Number of Branches 1988
Jordan	26	23
Arab Countries	29	25
Europe	11	5
U.S.A.	3	1
Far East	4	—

Affiliates and sister companies

Arab Bank Limited affiliates and sister companies are spread worldwide. This enables your Bank to perform multidimensional

activities, thus providing customers with a complete range of financial services.

Staff

In a world of rapid change, the skill and dedication of our staff are the bedrock of our achievements. In recent years, emphasis was given to high-level management training and to the specialization of banking facilities, such as credit, international banking operations and marketing. Training is continuously provided by our organization as well as by external academic and banking institutions. Our continued efforts, in updating the qualifications of all personnel, make for a constant improvement in customer services.

Automation

Your Bank is continuously utilizing modern concepts in office au-

tomation to provide excellent and faster services to its clients. This application of advanced automated systems and new techniques has also helped to reduce the running costs of the branches and General Management.

Your Bank now operates 15 computer centres throughout various countries. Additional Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) have been installed to upgrade facilities. Concurrently, progress is being made in providing to customers by way of home office banking systems.

Secure and economical communication between branches and General Management is provided by a leased telegraphic network system. The Bank is also a member of SWIFT, a network enabling communication between international banks concerning world finance. The connection to CHIPS and FED

WIRE, in New York, allows for automated clearing of cheques and transferring of funds.

Appropriation of Net Profit

The Board of Directors recommends the following appropriations:

- JD 16.2 million to the reserves
- JD 7.7 million to the Shareholders at JD 3.5 per share (35% of the par value of JD 10 payable as from 30 April 1988).
- JD 14,200 as remuneration to the Members of the Board of Directors.

In conclusion, the Board of Directors wishes to express its gratitude to all clients who entrusted their business to our Bank. A special note of thanks goes to the management and staff for their continued dedicated service to our customers and shareholders.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

ARAB BANK LIMITED

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Jordan Times
 Published daily except Fridays.
 Circulation: 10,000 copies.
 Subscription rates: \$10 per annum in advance.
 Advertising rates: \$100 per line per month.
 Contact: Jordan Times, P.O. Box 123, Amman, Jordan.
 Tel: 06 555 1234.

Are we heading towards a hot summer?

By Waleed Sadi

THE Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip could turn into a nightmare for the Israeli military strategists should the showdown between the populace of the occupied Arab territories and the Israeli occupying forces assume an armed conflict. This scenario is a real one in spite of the apparent respite in the uprising in view of what some observers term as a "fatigue" among the Palestinians who have been waging their "controlled" struggle for over four months. I believe it would be more sane and wise to construe any ensuing slowness or tapering off in the magnitude and scale of the Palestinian revolt as a mere prelude to the real storm which is clearly in the offing. With the Shultz peace plan in deep freeze pending the receipt of the replies of the parties concerned, time is fast ticking away and approaching the election dates for the U.S. and Israeli elections. The fast evaporating modicum of faith in the ability of the U.S. to animate its peace plan would surely reignite and reactivate the motivation and forces that lie behind the Palestinian uprising soon enough and make it resurface with ever more vigour and determination. Should this happen as expected, it would mean that a greater number of Israeli troops would become more pinned down by the escalating Palestinian revolt. And since it is no longer far-fetched to speculate that such an escalation could assume a bloodier manifestation, the Israeli armed forces could all of a sudden find themselves bogged down in a quagmire from which they may not be able to extricate themselves with impunity without raising the overall military risk factor for its strategic posture. Is it not tempting for Arab armies to contemplate launching a well-coordinated blitzkrieg with a view to liberate their occupied

territories when the Israeli army becomes ever more tied up in a continuous civil strife or an internal armed conflict? The fact that Israel's military edge over the surrounding Arab armies is fast eroding would surely heighten the risk of a new conflagration engulfing most of the Middle East region. There is already a quantitative military balance between the Arab armies directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the time factor is working in favour of attaining a qualitative balance between them as well. It is true Israel enjoys a nuclear monopoly and may resort to the deployment of its nuclear arsenal should its very existence become threatened, but it is very doubtful that the Israeli military strategists envisage the use of nuclear weapons if the Arab military objective is limited to the liberation of the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war. One also has to reckon with the implications of the epoch of rocketry and missiles which has dawned on the Middle East region. With an increasing number of Arab countries possessing medium range missiles capable of reaching all Israeli targets, the devastating effect of such an added muscle in the Arab arsenal could raise the stakes for Israel should worse come to worst. The invincibility of Israel is fast becoming shattered by the introduction of new classes of weaponry in the region at an unprecedented rate. All such developments should, one would hope, lead the Israeli leaders to the conclusion that Israel's ultimate security and survival does not lie in military might. Rather, its national security and existence emanate from arriving at an honourable and just peace agreement with the Arab parties at the soonest possible time.

Yet visionary leadership in Israel is in short supply at a time and juncture in history when such leadership is most urgently needed. The crippling divisiveness in the Israeli body politic is also rendering the sailing of Israeli decision-making process almost rudderless and aimless. Even the formulation of an Israeli reply to the Shultz peace initiative appears to be more geared to national elections in Israel than to the merits or demerits of the said initiative. There are grounds to substantiate the proposition that both Likud and Labour are playing local politics with the U.S. plan and each party is attempting to capitalise on the peace process or the lack of it to satisfy their respective lust for power and control. How else can one explain the absence of real substantive differences between the two principal Israeli political parties on the terms and conditions of any acceptable peace agreement with the concerned Arab parties. Clearly it has not escaped the Arab mind that Israel is impatiently waiting for and anticipating a flat Arab rejection of the Shultz peace formula in order to pass the blame for its demise on the traditional and customary source of rejection. Israel is masterful in cashing in on Arab rejections even when they are legitimate.

Meanwhile the military landscape in the Middle East spells danger for all sides. It will therefore be foolhardy to interpret any respite in the Palestinian insurrection as a prelude to restoration of tranquility and viable status quo in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It will also be short sighted not to view the continuation of tension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an enticing invitation for a greater conflagration that could engulf the whole region.

In search for a real identity

HER Majesty Queen Noor's recent visit to the Royal Scientific Society's Building Research Centre and the review of the project to compile a Manual of Jordan's Architectural Heritage highlight an area of concern in Jordan which deserves greater attention from both the private and public sectors. One might ask why we raise the issue of old buildings at a time when we are faced with pressing issues of national development and political struggle. We do so because we feel there is a clear and relevant link between our aspirations in the political and socio-economic fields and our identity as individuals, communities and nations.

Architecture, along with language and religion, is one of the most visible and durable manifestations of social dynamics and cultural identity. Buildings and neighbourhoods reflect patterns of socio-economic organisation and legacies of cultural identity. They are a physical link between people and land, and they can embody ideas and traditions that are passed on from one generation to the next. Jordan is an ancient land, the product of civilisations that have clashed and cooperated with one another for at least the past 5,000 years.

While political entities in the Middle East have emerged and faded for most of those millennia, the grassroots culture and identity of the people of the area — including ourselves in Jordan — have remained durable and distinct. Buildings that date from the past are vital but threatened components of our collective cultural history, and it would be naive to think that we can ignore what history has bequeathed us as we feverishly erect new structures of assorted aesthetic and physical quality. One of the problems of conserving historic buildings in Jordan is the lack of focus by private and public groups, as many of the turn-of-the-century buildings of Jordan do not fall under the aegis of the Department of Antiquities or any other government agency, and there are no private societies specifically addressing the issue in a sustained manner. Therefore, Queen Noor's call for a new law to protect and revitalise our historic buildings strikes us as both timely and important, and we hope the government would find the time and the concern to respond to the challenge in an effective manner. For if we are not fortified by a strong vision of where we came from, we are unlikely to formulate a coherent strategy for where we are going to in the future.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shultz is coming

IT has been officially announced in Washington that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will return to the Middle East area again on April 3, an announcement which received a reserved response by Damascus. Syria believes like all the Arab countries that as long as there was no change in America's policies, Washington can play no meaningful role in this region. The announcement has naturally raised a number of questions since Shultz's initiative, advocated during his previous tours, has been rebuffed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who is bent on opposing the Arab World's call for a comprehensive and lasting settlement through an international conference. The Arabs who adhere to their stand have been supported by the Islamic nations at their foreign ministers meeting last week in Amman, and have been backed for their call for an international conference by Europe and most countries of the world. This constructive Arab stand conflicts with Israel's policies which call for partial solutions and unilateral treaties. We are surprised to see Shultz coming back unless he has something else up his sleeve. Some of us, indeed, believe that his tour could be aimed to undermine an Arab summit meeting due to be held in Algiers in April and means for supporting the Palestinian people's uprising against Israeli rule. The tour could be a ploy to show that Israel is still approaching the path of peace, and the U.S. is here to make things move ahead.

Al Dustour: Rallying Arabs, Muslims

KING Hussein's visits to Pakistan and Oman were within the framework of Jordan's diplomatic moves to rally more support for the Arab Nation and to bolster relations among Arabs and Muslims in the face of the common challenges. This stage requires unity of ranks among the Arab and Islamic countries so that they can have a real weight worldwide, and exercise their pressure wherever their national interests are concerned. The King's talks with the Pakistani and Omani leaders came as the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab land maintain their uprising against Israel's oppression and against the campaigns of terror and murder by Israeli troops. The Palestinians are in dire need of Arab and Islamic support and financial and moral backing for their cause to enable them to maintain their struggle for freedom. At the same time, the Iran-Iraq war is now entering a new ferocious phase requiring intensified Arab and Islamic efforts at all levels to bring the conflict to an end. Perhaps the positive outcome of the Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Amman can play as a catalyst, enabling Jordan and the rest of the Islamic countries to bolster their endeavours to end the conflict in the Gulf. By the end of last year, Jordan's diplomatic efforts yielded solidarity among Arabs whose leaders conveyed their summit meeting in Amman. Let us hope that Jordan's fresh efforts will help find solutions for pressing questions and problems facing the Arab and Islamic world.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan maintains the drive

JORDAN realised another success with the conclusion of an Islamic conference that achieved fruitful results and strengthened unity among Muslims. Jordan which hosted the Arab summit meeting in Amman last November was also successful in bringing the Arab leaders to an agreement and consensus on urgent pressing issues. King Hussein, in his speech to the Islamic foreign ministers meeting last week underlined the need for continued efforts to end the Arab and Islamic wars, and to pave the way for a unified and collective Islamic action. He urged the ministers to make it their task to pool the efforts of their countries to end the Gulf war and to close the doors in the face of all greedy nations and those trying to tamper with the stability and security of the Islamic region and the Islamic rights and interests. To achieve this goal, adherence to basic and firm principles, and flexibility in action are required. The King voiced the Arab World's desire to reach peace in the Middle East based on a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands and through an international conference, and he has demanded an end to the Gulf war in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Short of options?

By William Pfaff

PARIS — One could say of Israel and the Palestinians what Conor Cruise O'Brien, the Irish writer and politician, has said of South Africa:

- To maintain the status quo is impossible;
- Reforms acceptable to both sides are impossible;
- And revolution is impossible.

Starting with that, what is the point of the Shultz peace plan? The United States cannot deliver peace and Arab agreement to Israel, nor can it deliver Israel and peace to the Palestinians. Only Israel, the Arab governments and the Palestinians, in and out of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, can make peace. The United States has substantial power to press all three toward political negotiations and a settlement, but this power has limits.

Moreover, divisions within the Palestinian and Arab camps are no less deep and cruel than those inside Israeli society. Even a settlement that obtained general approval from the Arab principal could be destroyed by the minority or factions that opposed it. One reason Israelis fear a settlement is that they find it hard to believe they could trust it. If statesmanship and generosity were better known among Israelis and Palestinians, and supporters of each, one could hope for something better. There is little sign of either. One sees fear, stubbornness, hysterical hatred, political self-interest — the fanatical heart.

Yet besides the Shultz plan, there is nothing. The sole visible alternative is an intolerable status quo. The Israeli right would not, of course, accept that this is true.



It thinks Israel has a positive option. It holds that Israel could expel the Palestinians while expelling the borders of an all-Jewish Israel, and thereby become secure.

It also appears to believe that it could do this without losing America's economic subsidy of Israel. It assumes that Israel can safely defy majority American opinion, which clearly is behind the Shultz plan and which favours a generous solution to the Palestinian problem.

It presumes that the American Jewish community will give unqualified support to Israel no matter what Israel's policies, and that American Jews can and will persuade Congress and the U.S. government to do the same. Both assumptions are very likely mistaken. There is an element of moral blackmail in this position that could produce a backlash.

This U.S.-Israeli disagreement over the Shultz plan, and behind it the disagreement over Israel's annexation of the occupied territories, suggest that a fundamental change is approaching in the warm yet peculiar relationship that has existed between the two countries for 40 years. The alliance reached its peak during

the first Reagan term, when America supported Israel's invasion of Lebanon, and the Israeli economy was virtually annexed to America's.

Lebanese adventures went badly for Israel and the United States; and the Pollard spy case and Israel's involvement in the Iran-contra scandal affected both American official and popular attitudes toward Israel.

Under Reagan, and the Begin and Shamir governments in Israel, a change had developed in the political alignments and quality of the U.S.-Israeli relationship. Its dynamic became that of an alliance of American conservatives, possessing an activist anti-communist and anti-radical policy agenda, with expansionists.

The old alliance, lasting from 1948 through the 1970s, had at first associated American liberals with a liberal (indeed socialist) Israel, a relationship criticised by American conservatives but which subsequently was confirmed by widening American sympathy for a beleaguered democracy understood to want only to be left in peace by its Arab neighbours.

The change in the quality of the alliance in the 1980s reflected

changes in the nature of the two societies themselves, as well as an altered international situation, notably the rise of terrorism. It became an active partnership to suppress terrorism and Arab radicalism, with the Israeli intelligence services making the indispensable contribution.

Israel's conservatives found American support for their programme to eject the PLO from Lebanon and to turn Lebanon into an Israeli satellite, and they expected U.S. acquiescence in Israel's effective annexation of Gaza and the West Bank territories occupied in the 1967 war.

No one said much about this change in the alliance as it took place. Yet it was an important change, making the relationship much more partisan and politically divisive — potentially much more controversial. American public opinion had easily ratified the original alliance, which guaranteed that Israel would survive and prosper. Today's crisis between the two countries follows from the fact that Americans are belatedly being asked, but refusing, to ratify the new alliance, which says that Israel will expand — International Herald Tribune.

Washington 'think tank' envisions Mideast without physical barriers

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Wolf Blitzer

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan panel of influential Middle East specialists, including several former U.S. officials, has called for creative new thinking in trying to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We envision a future in which borders would not be physical barriers," the new Brookings Institution study says. "Citizens of one political entity could live safely, and with recognised rights, elsewhere in the region; and economic transactions and movement of individuals would be subject to few restrictions."

The study, entitled "Toward Arab-Israeli Peace: Report of a Study Group," suggests that a "regional economic plan with international support should complement such a political settlement and help to ensure its viability."

In late 1975, the Brookings Institution, a Washington "think tank," released its first study on the Arab-Israeli conflict. It called on Israel to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines "with only such modifications as are mutually accepted." It also recognised Palestinian "self-determination, subject to Palestinian acceptance of the sovereignty and integrity of Israel within agreed boundaries."

Because several members of that panel later emerged as key foreign policy officials in the Carter administration, it was widely seen as having had a significant influence on the shaping of U.S.

policy under Carter.

For nearly a year, a new group of American specialists, representing a relatively wide range of opinion, has met in Washington to draft this second report, which organisers hope could serve as a useful guide to the next U.S. administration.

The report, which is seen as being considerably less controversial than its predecessor, rejects any imposed settlement.

"We want to emphasise that details of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement should not be dictated by the U.S. or any other outside party."

Coordinating the effort was William Quandt, a senior fellow at Brookings who served as a Middle East staffer on the National Security Council under Carter. Quandt was also a member of the original Brookings report.

The co-chairmen of the new report were former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis and former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Hermann Eilts. Other members of the group included former U.S. officials Alfred A. Harp, Harold Saunders and Robert Neumann. Also signing the report was former U.S. senator Charles Mathias of Maryland.

There were both American Arabs as well as American Jews involved in the study.

"This report is intended to enrich the discussion of how the U.S. can best promote Arab-Israeli peace negotiations," said Brookings President Bruce MacLure. It does not offer a blueprint. It does suggest how to get the negotiating process under way and puts forward principles that should inform the efforts of

any American president."

The group reached broad agreement in six basic areas. The following are excerpts from the report's summary:

1. Urgency. Arab-Israeli peacemaking should be a high priority for any American administration. Failure to break the long-standing deadlock in the peace process endangers American national interests.

2. New Realities. It will not suffice for a newly elected president simply to invoke the diplomatic formulas of the past. Previous initiatives contain some useful building blocks, but a serious policy cannot be developed simply by stringing these formulations together. New realities in the region require new approaches and concepts.

3. The American role. We would like to see a continuous, high-level commitment of American resources to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

4. An International Framework for Negotiations. Convening an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict is the most widely supported approach to negotiations. On the controversial issue of Palestinian participation, we have concluded that Palestinians should be represented in any negotiations with Israel by spokesmen of their own choosing, whether in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or in some other configuration. The U.S. should have no objection to the participation of Palestinians who are on record as being prepared to coexist with the state of Israel, are committed to peace negotiations, can contribute to that objective, and re-

nounce the use of force.

5. Basic Principles for Arab-Israeli Peace. We believe the U.S. should formulate a strategy for promoting Arab-Israeli peace based on the following points:

□ In order to achieve broad Arab-Israeli peace, both Israel and the Palestinians must be directly involved.

□ A recognition that the area defined as the former mandate of Palestine west of the Jordan River is home to both peoples is essential to a reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

□ Israelis and Palestinians will have to work closely with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a majority of whose citizens are Palestinians, in shaping a peace agreement.

□ Under international sponsorship, Israel and Syria should be encouraged to negotiate peace based on the principles of U.N. Resolution 242.

6. Transitional Steps. Within these guidelines, we believe that some form of transitional arrangements must be part of the next phase of Arab-Israeli peacemaking.

□ ceasing all forms of violence; □ ending the state of belligerency and economic and diplomatic boycott between Israel and its Arab neighbours;

□ minimising the Israeli military presence in populated areas of the West Bank and Gaza; □ placing substantial authority in the hands of West Bank and Gaza Palestinians, especially with respect to land, water, economic activity, and political organisation; and

□ halting new Israeli settlements and land expropriation in the occupied territories."

Charges against young Nasser evoke memories of his father

By Nejla Sammakia
 The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Memories of Gamal Abdul Nasser, once adored by Egyptians, then widely criticised after his death, are being revived by a legal battle facing his son.

Khaled Abdul Nasser is charged with anti-American and anti-Israeli terrorism.

Should he choose to end his self-imposed exile in Yugoslavia and face trial, as he indicates he will, Khaled's supporters could be many. They are likely to include even his father's worst enemies, the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood.

No date for the trial has been set.

"We sympathise with Nasser's son, even if we don't like Nasser," said Mohammed Abdul Qudoos, a Brotherhood member and prominent journalist. "If Khaled is shown to be anti-Zionist and anti-American, even those who didn't like Nasser will support him. The Israelis are killing Palestinians. We can't try him."

The 38-year-old Khaled and 19 co-defendants, allegedly comprising a group known as "Egypt's Revolution," were charged Feb. 18 in connection with four street shootings between 1984 and 1987 that killed two Israeli embassy employees, wounded six Israelis and wounded two American diplomats. Nasser and 10 others could be hanged if convicted.

Israel and the United States were the principal antagonists of his father, republican Egypt's first president from 1956 until he died in September 1970. Nasser's popularity at home was so strong at the time of his death that hundreds of thousands of mourners poured into the streets to follow his coffin, sweeping it off its horse-drawn gun carriage and passing it hand-to-hand over their heads.

Emotions with Khaled

"It's said that if something is done to the son of Gamal Abdul Nasser, the people will revolt," said Khaled Mohieddin, a partner of Khaled Abdul Nasser in the Revolutionary Command Council that overturned Egypt's monarchy in 1952.

"The emotions of the Egyptian people are with the son of Nasser. He is killing Israelis. They feel this is not a crime that a son of Nasser should be tried for," said Mohieddin, who used to be called "the red major" because of his pro-Soviet leanings.

He heads the opposition National Unionist Progressive Party, an umbrella of Marxists and Socialists, and says diehard Nasserites make up 40 per cent of his party membership.

Nasser's pan-Arab ideas won him a continuing following outside Egypt. But Egyptians who honour his memory do so mainly because of his social and economic reforms and his ultra-nationalism, which often manifested itself through defiance of the West.

Added to Nasser's own enduring image is another factor that appears to favour Khaled — growing resentment in Egypt over Israel's suppression of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Government-owned national newspapers regularly attack Israel's actions, and opposition papers have demanded a freeze of relations established under the

1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Muslim Brotherhood member Abdul Qudoos said members of the group are ready to brush aside their hatred of President Nasser to support Khaled. After Nasser's death, many Egyptians reacted against his harsh and repressive domestic policies.

"If the Nasserites try to exploit the name of Nasser, the case will lose popularity among the religious groups," Abdul Qudoos warned.

Formed in 1928, the Brotherhood espouses a renaissance of Islamic values. Initially supportive of Nasser's 1952 revolution, the Brotherhood gradually eased away from Nasser until, in 1954, it was accused of trying to kill him. This triggered a massive crackdown in which thousands were jailed, six leaders tried and hanged and the organisation banned.

Subsequent administrations left the ban in place. Now, however, the Brotherhood has achieved such respectability that members ran for parliament in elections last April, winning about 35 seats, in a tactical alliance with two legal, secular parties. Al Shaab, the weekly paper of one of the parties, the left-of-centre Labour Party, said of the charges against Khaled Nasser: "What Egypt's Revolution has done... is a form of self-defence and defence of the nation. The group had no other motivation than to chase Zionists and American intelligence men out of Egypt."

The centrist Wafd Party, born under the monarchy and generally anti-Nasser and pro-American, recently highlighted in its daily Al Wafd an interview with Mahmoud Nouredin, a co-defendant alleged to have been a trigger man in the attacks.

"We resorted to bullets to halt the advance of spies on Egypt," he was quoted as saying.

Beside Nouredin's picture was a statement by President Hosni Mubarak that Khaled's alleged involvement in the conspiracy "will not affect the name and history of the leader Gamal Abdul Nasser, whom Egypt respects and loves."

Nasser lives on in some of the Socialist reforms he introduced. Although his successor, Anwar Sadat, and Mubarak effectively reversed many of Nasser's policies, they had to leave some of the reforms in place.

Nasser's portrait adorns Cairo walls annually around the time of his Sept. 28 death anniversary, commemorated by official visits to his mausoleum in the courtyard of Nasser mosque. Recordings of his characteristic voice and speech delivery occasionally ring out in taxis.

But schools have stopped teaching the charter, a compilation of the revolution's aims and reforms and a pre-high school must in the 1960s and early 1970s.

"Nasser sparked off all liberation movements in the area," said Moussa Sabry, an editor and former board chairman at the state-run daily Al Akhbar and once close to Sadat. "He established social justice that changed the map of society. His leadership was within the country, for the poor."

Nevertheless, Sabry said he doesn't think a court conviction would make the son of Egypt's first president a local hero.

"I personally feel it would be very ordinary," Sabry said. "He committed a crime, and the law is applied to him like to any other."

Analysts expect non-OPEC oil exporters to reduce world glut

NEW YORK (R) — Non-OPEC oil producers, which the group says are pumping more than 500,000 extra barrels a day into world markets, might be persuaded to reduce output by about five per cent if OPEC did likewise, according to U.S. analysts.

They said both the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the non-OPEC producers must cut back production over a sustained period if world oil prices were to stabilise near OPEC's \$18 a barrel target price.

A group of seven non-OPEC producers — Egypt, Oman, China, Mexico, Malaysia, Angola and Colombia — are expected to announce steps soon to help boost oil prices, an Arab oil industry official told Reuters last week.

OPEC, meanwhile, has called a price committee meeting for the first week of April to examine weak world oil prices.

Crude prices saw-sawed by as much as \$1 a barrel last week, with West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark grade, ending firmer at \$17.03 a barrel Friday in anticipation of the OPEC price committee meeting, traders and analysts said.

They thought prices would probably remain volatile until the OPEC panel met.

British Brent crude, another benchmark, ended almost unchanged on the week at \$15.40 for April delivery. That was \$1.45 up on the beginning of March.

OPEC countries are now producing at or under their self-imposed ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day, excluding Iraq, according to OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria.

Analysts say OPEC has resisted calling an emergency meeting of oil ministers, fearing that

any production cuts on the group's part would be quickly made up by non-OPEC producers eager to increase sales.

Lukman blames non-OPEC producers

Lukman, at a news conference in Lagos Wednesday, blamed non-OPEC producers for adding to the weakness of oil prices. He said non-OPEC producers now were pumping between 500,000 and one million extra barrels each day into a glutted world market.

William Hermann, chief economist of U.S.-based Chevron Corp., estimated aggregate production for the group of seven non-OPEC producers in 1988 will total about 7.65 million barrels per day.

He said one plan rumoured to be under consideration was a five per cent cut in output by the seven, which would remove about 382,500 barrels per day from the world oil market.

"Fundamentally, a five per cent decrease in output by these seven non-OPEC nations is a step in the right direction," he said.

"If the non-OPEC production cutbacks hold over time, then OPEC members might be more inclined to stick to their quotas."

Mehdi Varzi, an oil analyst with Kleinwort Greaveson in London, said another possible plan to support prices would have both OPEC and non-OPEC producers trim production by about five per cent.

Varzi estimated such a cutback would eliminate about 1.1 million

barrels per day from the world oil market.

But analysts say non-OPEC producers are likely to resist requests for voluntary production cuts because oil is the primary source of revenue for many.

"At today's prices, I can't picture non-OPEC producers wanting to lose market share," said Sarah Emerson, vice-president of U.S.-based Energy Security Analysis Inc. "However, if the price of oil fell to \$12 or \$13, then they might cut back."

She said non-OPEC producers might simply announce a downward revision in future output growth.

Non-OPEC production in the first quarter of 1988 will come to 25.51 million barrels per day, up 170,000 barrels per day from last year's levels, according to Data Resources Inc. Total world oil production averaged about 55.34 million barrels per day in 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

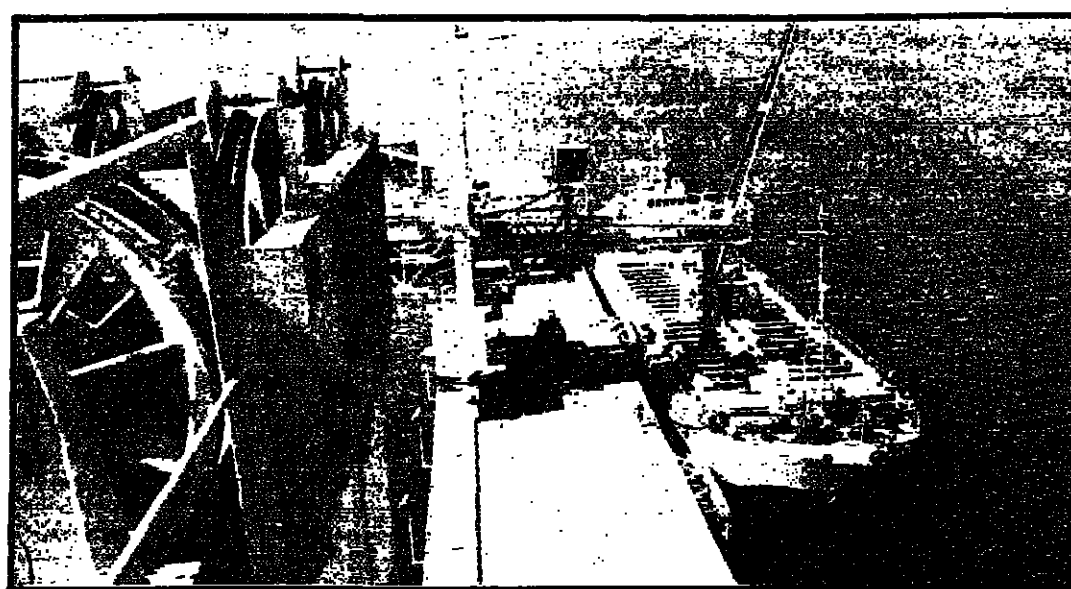
Participation of Norway, Britain and Soviet Union

William Veno, an analyst with DRI, said production cutbacks by OPEC and the seven non-OPEC producers might be insufficient unless Norway, Britain and the Soviet Union participate. The three are not part of the seven-nation group that met earlier this month in London.

But Sanford Margoshes, an oil analyst with Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc., said a cut by even a few non-OPEC producers would be an important step in balancing world supplies and demand.

"It would send OPEC signals that greater support is being given to them. They would not have to fear that if they cut, the void would be filled by non-OPEC production," he said.

India likely to maintain high imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash



A ship at Aqaba port being loaded with Jordanian phosphate (File photo)

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — India is expected to sustain the same value of imports from Jordan in 1988 as in 1987, and any increase will depend on demand within India subject to completion of new phosphate processing plants.

The total volume of Indian purchases of Jordanian products — rock phosphate and muriate of potash — amounted to about \$80 million in 1987, according to available statistics.

New Delhi has already decided to buy the same quantity — 1.05 million tonnes of rock phosphate and 400,000 tonnes of muriate of potash — this year, but the total value may vary in line with fluctuations in international prices.

Most of India's phosphate and fertiliser plants are attuned to Jordanian phosphates and potash, including a new facility which is nearing completion.

Some of the rest are suitable to process Moroccan phosphates

while others are compatible with East European products.

"At this stage, I cannot say whether we will increase the volume of imports from Jordan this year," said A.K. Gandhi, resident manager in Amman of an office of the Indian state-owned Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC). "Everything depends on domestic demand... whether the new plant will depend entirely on Jordanian phosphates..."

MMTC is the sole agency responsible for imports of metals and minerals into India. In turn, it seeks to increase the volume of Indian exports to the respective countries.

In fact, India is the largest importer of Jordanian products, and has been so for many years. Reports in the Indian media indicate that on several occasions India offered to increase its imports from Jordan by almost 50 per cent provided Jordanian imports from India are raised by 20 to 30 per cent.

According to Gandhi, who set up the MMTC office in Amman six months ago, Jordan's imports from India amounted to about \$3.5 million in 1987.

"We are trying to identify specific fields where Jordan could increase its purchase of Indian products, in the public as well as private sectors," he said.

This view appears to be shared by the Jordanian government since the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company has extended its own office facilities to the MMTC resident manager.

However, the MMTC appears to have little to show in the way of increased exports to Jordan. "The difference is too wide, in the trade balance," Gandhi said. "But we are pursuing efforts."

The Indian commerce secretary — equivalent to the under-secretary of trade in Jordan — visited Jordan in 1986 and held extensive talks with senior Jordanian officials on the issue. It was agreed that Jordan would accelerate efforts to raise its reciprocal trade with India. As a result several Indian companies were given contracting projects in Jordan.

According to Gandhi, there is a multitude of Indian products for Jordan to choose from. He cited tea, coffee, spices, cashew nuts, engineering and chemical products, vegetable oil, tobacco products, jute products, fish products, medicine, automobile spare parts, rice etc. as Indian products that enjoy good potential in the Jordanian market.

Ironically, market sources say,

many Indian products — including food stuff — are imported into the local market from Europe, mostly from Britain, where there is a large number of companies specialised in purchasing Indian products and channelling to other countries. Many products appearing in shelves in the local market bear the label "packed India" for European importers.

Gandhi said a high-level Indian trade delegation headed by the commerce secretary is expected to visit Jordan some time in late May or early June for the bi-annual meeting of a joint Jordanian-Indian committee. It is expected that any decision to increase India's purchase from Jordan will be announced at the end of the meeting.

"Of course we are also interested in contracting projects," Gandhi said. Among ideas considered by the Indian government is also a long-entertained proposal to hold a trade fair in Jordan.

Gandhi said no specific plans were drawn up but he expected to have a definite decision during his visit to India in April for periodic talks on MMTC activities in Jordan.

During previous talks between Indian and Jordanian trade officials, the idea of setting up a fertiliser processing plant in Jordan with Indian expertise has been raised. It is expected that it will be discussed during the visit to Jordan of the Indian trade delegation.

India's hopes of securing projects worth over \$100 million were set back earlier this year when the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) postponed the expansion of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station. According to informed sources, two Indian companies were the lowest bidders for the civil works and the supply of boiler units for the expansion scheme.

India scaled down its imports of fertiliser-related products from elsewhere in the Middle East mostly from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states — in 1987 but this move did not affect its purchases from Jordan.

India indeed has the flexibility to increase its imports from Jordan but appears to be waiting for reciprocal move from Amman before doing so.

A deal that was agreed upon in 1987 under which India was to supply 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Jordan was called off when India found itself faced with a severe drought which could affect Indian wheat products for some years to come.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Sunday March 27, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	178,485 JD	277,037	228
Top three companies:			
National Steel Ind.	24,967 JD	71,383	11
Intermediate Petrochemical	24,568 JD	35,400	42
Arab Bank	290 JD	32,970	9
Parallel market:	2,867 JD	1,471	—
Development bonds:	1,250 JD	13,588	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

New airliners seen limiting Gulf Arab role in world aviation

BAHRAIN (R) — New airliners able to carry more people over longer distances threaten a role played by the Gulf states as an East-West staging post.

The latest Boeing 747-400S, with a range of 13,140 kilometres, will be able to fly nonstop between Europe and the Far East when they enter airline operation next year.

The European plane-making consortium Airbus Industrie is also developing new aircraft, to enter service in 1992, which will be able to do without costly refuelling stops in the Gulf on routes between Europe and East Asia.

Aviation industry officials say many carriers which now operate flights that stop over in the Gulf, an area generously supplied with international airports, will cease or cut down on services to the area.

"The area as a whole will see a reduction in total capacity of services deployed to and from the Gulf," Gulf Air marketing vice president Hamed Al Medfa said.

"The market here is small and ultimately foreign carriers will yield to competitive pressure for more direct flights on the main trunk routes between Europe and the Far East," he noted.

Three major carriers — Swissair, Singapore Airlines and Japan Airlines — have already announced plans to pull out of Bahrain, once a booming transit point in the region.

"Our decision was based on plans to meet commercial demand for more long-haul direct flights between East and West," Wong Tong Seng, Singapore's Middle East general manager, told Reuters.

Some airlines which have placed orders for new long-range aircraft say they will continue to stop in the Gulf, primarily to pick up and deliver foreign workers, mostly Asians.

Economic recession as a result of weak oil prices has, however, reduced the number of Asian workers.

"When we begin operating the new 747-400S in April 1989, they will probably overfly Bahrain," said Qantas Airways Middle East Manager Malcolm Genge. But he said traffic between Australia and the Middle East was growing and if this continued "we will fly the new aircraft through Bahrain as well."

With 12 international airports in the Gulf and two more due to open in the coming decade, competition for airline business is fierce.

Dubai is the Gulf's main transit

point and its 1987 transit passenger volume of 1.75 million means it vies with Tokyo's Narita airport as the world's major stopover point.

Boeing Marketing Director Myron Anton told reporters here the new long-haul planes create opportunities as well as challenges for Middle East air carriers.

Local carriers could use the new 747-400 to open long-distance routes to North America or the Far East while the smaller extended range 767-300 and 200 airliners could be operated more economically on short to medium routes, he said.

Gulf Air's Al Medfa said he believed the anticipated decline in foreign carriers serving the region would benefit local airlines by giving them more traffic from the region.

Cabinet grants incentives to projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet has decided to consider a number of projects as developmental, allowing them to enjoy exemptions from taxes and privileges provided for by a law for encouraging investments.

Among those projects were agricultural schemes initiated by Jordanian companies on lands in the south of the country leased from the state and a company which will produce ice.

The Cabinet also decided to cancel a previous decision giving exemptions and privileges to the Mohammad Kurdi dairy plant and a company for producing fodder because they failed to carry out the projects within three years from the date they were given the exemptions in accordance with the agreement.



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Africa accelerates bid for radical debt solution

NAIROBI (R) — African nations are stepping up efforts to get reluctant creditors to a round-table conference to consider radical action on a burden of \$200 billion of debt which is crippling their economies.

"Our economies are grinding to a halt and many of our countries are actually regressing," says the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) in a declaration setting out new ideas on the debt crisis.

A ministerial committee from 12 African states, which owe more than 70 per cent of Africa's debt, decided last week to press

for such a conference in November or December.

But Western banks, aid agencies and governments have so far have shown no serious interest in the idea.

The 12 ministers met in Lusaka last week to coordinate strategy after a special summit of the 49-member OAU last December endorsed the OAU blueprint for debt relief.

It contains dozens of far-reaching proposals, including a 10-year suspension on loan repayment, cancellation of present official debt, 50-year repayment

periods on new private and official loans and interest rate cuts on commercial loans.

Any rescheduling of debts should be done over 50 years with no interest charged.

It also urges industrialised nations to pursue policies that would ensure higher prices for Africa's commodity exports and to remove protectionist trade barriers.

"The measures are indeed the minimum that we feel are necessary to enable our countries to recover and resume normal growth," it declares.

The U.N. Economic Commission for Africa says the continent's economy, sapped by drought, rapid population growth, civil strife and a slump in world prices for most of its farm and mineral exports, grew only 1.5 per cent in 1987.

This was well below an original forecast of 2.0-4.0 per cent and only about half the rate of population growth.

Lenders have taken a softer line towards Africa in recent months, writing off certain official debt, stretching repayment periods and mobilising funds to

boost concessionary loans.

But their action still falls short of what the OAU proposes.

Its debt paper points to constantly falling income per capita, mass unemployment and poverty which it says threatens the social and cultural fabric of African societies.

It also hints at near bankruptcy in many economies. "In the majority of our countries the question is not that of a liquidity crisis but of solvency."

Many countries already face debt repayment bills exceeding what they earn from exports.

Without a suitable remedy, it envisages Africa's foreign debt will jump more than 50 per cent by 1995 and triple to \$600 billion by the year 2000.

By then African countries, which now spend on average over 40 per cent of export income repaying their debt, will need to pour nearly three-quarters of such earnings into debt servicing.

"The exorbitant debt service burden is depriving our economies of resources needed not only for development but also in many countries for the survival of our peoples," it warns.

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FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Consists of three bedrooms, three bathrooms, two salons, and a veranda. First floor with central heating, telephone and solar heater.
Location: Western Amman district / Abdullah Ghoshe Street opposite Pizza Hut.

Call Tel: 819890, 816273

FOR RENT

Deluxe ground floor, in a 2 floor villa for rent. Consisting of 4 bedrooms, 2 salons, dining room, 3 verandas, a garage and a big garden with a spacious basement (if required). Located between 4th & 5th Circles opposite Abdoun area. The villa is one year old and the area of its ground floor is 340 sq. metres.

Please call Tel. 604618

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

One bedroom, salon, kitchen and bathroom. With central heating, telephone and garage.
Location: Shmeisani, near Birds Garden.

Call 602064/644483

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

University degree in Business Administration, with minimum 6 years experience, preferable in service industry or particularly in advertising agency. Age between 30 - 35 years preferable. English is mandatory.

For interview please call: 605930 / 660160

FURNISHED FLATS FOR RENT

At two sites: The first near Al Rai newspaper and the other near the Goethe Institute, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle. First consists of two bedrooms, and other utilities at JD 1,800 a year. Second consists of one bedroom, and other utilities at JD 1,200 a year.

Call Tel: 644180 during the day and Tel: 661685 at night

THE SWEDISH EMBASSY

Wants to rent an office or suitable villa to be used as an Embassy chancery.
Area required approx. 500 square metres.

Tel: 669177

FOR RENT

Furnished one bedroom basement and a large living room. Private entrance and private phone with heater. Location 8th Circle.

Pis. call Tel. 813942, Amman

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

SOME ONE LIKE YOU

Performances: 5:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOU CINEMA** «Formerly Opera» Tel: 675573

STRIPES

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

R.S.V.P

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Graf beats Evert to win Florida tennis title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Top seed Steffi Graf kept her concentration in the 48 degree heat (120 F.) courtside heat Saturday to win her second straight International Players Championships title with a 6-4, 6-4 win over second seed Chris Evert.

Graf, who collected \$112,500 for the victory, has not lost a set to Evert in their last six meetings. The 33-year-old Evert, who won her first six career meetings against Graf, lost to the West German world number one in the final here last year. The powerful 18-year-old also defeated Evert in the Australian Open final in January.

Graf maintained her concentration when it appeared that Evert, ranked third in the world, was about to rally and force a third set.

The top seed became unnerved by a questionable line call in the fifth game of the second set as she was on the verge of taking control of the match. Evert had fought off two break points in the game, which could have given Graf a 4-1 lead.

On the third dence, Evert hit a cross-court backhand winner that Graf thought was out. Evert went on to hold her serve for 2-3 and broke Graf in the next game for 3-3.

The American had two break points in the eighth game with a chance to take a 5-3 lead. Graf, however, fought off both points, one with an impressive overhead winner, to level the set again.

Graf then came up with a crucial service break in the ninth game on her fifth break point of the set when Evert netted a drop shot and the West German served out the match on a service winner.

"It was always going back and forth," Graf said. "In the second set at 3-1 the ball really disturbed me. I was getting mad at it. I didn't concentrate for two games, then I said I have to get back into it. That helped me play better," she said.

Graf had taken an early 3-1 lead in the first set when Evert double faulted to lose her serve. The second seed fought off a



Steffi Graf

break point in the fifth game with an ace and broke back for 4-4 in the eighth game, only to lose her serve in the ninth and watch Graf serve out the set.

Evert, the winner here in 1986, compared this year's one hour 40 minute battle to Graf's 58-minute 6-1, 6-2 1987 rout.

"I'm closing the gap a little bit. I'm happy with my play this week," Evert said.

"There were a couple of key points in both sets that she played better on. I got my chances, but I just couldn't pull it out of the bag," Evert said.

Egyptian parliamentarians to discuss soccer disaster

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian parliamentary committee will hold a special session next week to discuss a blow to national pride — elimination from the Africa Nations Soccer Cup.

The committee on sports and youth affairs is due to meet next Sunday to discuss ways of avoiding a repeat of Egypt's poor performance.

One fan said in a letter to Al-Ahram newspaper Sunday that a minute's national mourning should be observed, and another suggested the team and football federation should be jailed as "a security threat to soccer."

Passions have not cooled in the week since Egypt drew 0-0 with Nigeria in Rabat and were knocked out of Africa's premier soccer competition.

It was the first time defending champions Egypt had been eliminated in the first round. The football federation will meet Monday amid continuing calls for the sacking of British coach Mike Smith.

Duke, Oklahoma reach NCAA basketball final four

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — The Duke Blue Devils rallied Saturday to upset Temple, the top-ranked college basketball team in the country, 63-53 and earned a berth among the NCAA final four in Kansas City next weekend.

Oklahoma soundly defeated Villanova 78-59 in the Southeast regional final of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament to take their place in the coveted final four.

A tenacious Oklahoma defense held the Wildcats to just 21 second half points and kept them scoreless for a stretch of over five minutes.

Villanova led 38-31 at the half, but the Sooners reeled off 11 straight points midway through the second half and continued to shut down the Wildcats' offense.

The Temple Owls led by as much as 10 points in the first half of the East Regional final before Duke closed the gap to 28-25 at the break.

Duke, led by Kevin Strickland's game-high 21 points and Danny Ferry's 20, completely took control of the game early in the second half and never looked back.

The tournament began on March 17 with 64 teams. The last two berths in the final four will be decided Sunday.

NCAA BASKETBALL RESULTS

NEW YORK (R) — Results of regional finals in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball tournament Saturday:

East:			
Duke	63	Temple	53
Southwest:			
Oklahoma	78	Villanova	59

Napoli, Milan abridge gap as Roma defeats Inter

ROME (R) — The race for the Italian Soccer League title narrowed to Diego Maradona's Napoli and AC Milan Sunday when third-placed Roma went down 4-2 to Internazionale.

Both leading teams were held to goalless draws, champions Napoli at Torino and Milan at relegation-threatened Avellino, leaving Napoli four points clear of Milan on 39.

Roma's title hopes had been revived by four victories in succession but their defeat left them six points adrift of Napoli with six matches to go and two down on AC Milan.

Inter, struggling back from the doldrums and in search of a place in Europe next season, were 3-0 up after 31 minutes with a penalty from veteran striker Alessandro Altobelli and goals from Giuseppe Bergomi and Massimo Ciccoci.

A fighting Roma had the deficit down to a single goal by half time before man-of-the-match Ciccoci hit home Internazionale's fourth and his second with a masterly shot from way out on the right in the 69th minute.

Giuseppe Giamini scored for Roma in the 37th from a penalty awarded for hand ball after an inter player mistakenly picked up the ball in the area, thinking play had been stopped.

He was also involved in Roma's second, directing a free kick into the area where Bergomi had the misfortune of putting the ball into his own net.

Milan had travelled to second-from-bottom Avellino with their sights set on full points while Napoli faced a tougher task against the team which beat them in the quarter-finals of the Italian Cup three weeks ago.

But on a day which brought not a single change in the League table, both teams had to be content with a draw.

Milan midfielder Angelo Colombo had a clear chance to store in each half but was thwarted both times by Avellino keeper



Diego Maradona

Nicola Di Leo.

At Torino, Austrian Anton Polster almost put the home side ahead early in the first half but headed just wide.

Sampdoria, 1-0 winners at home to Fiorentina, stayed fourth nine points behind Napoli with inter fifth and Torino sixth.

Fiorentina's Swedish striker Glenn Hysen had a goal disallowed in the first half after he clashed with a Sampdoria player in the air.

Algeria wins 3rd place in Africa Cup

CASABLANCA (R) — Algeria took the third place consolation prize in the Africa Nations Cup soccer tournament after beating Morocco 4-3 in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw Saturday.

Algeria took the game into extra time with a goal in the dying minutes from star midfielder Lakhdar Belloumi, who headed home from close range, at the far post after some hesitation by the substitute Moroccan goalkeeper in coming out to challenge.

It gave the North African side a measure of revenge for a 1-0 defeat by Morocco earlier in the competition. But Algeria take third place without having won a single game in the two week tournament.

In the Group A qualifying matches, apart from losing to the host nation, they only managed to draw with both Zaire and Ivory

Coast and moved into a semi-final clash with Nigeria on the basis of a potluck draw.

Morocco, humbled by Cameroon in Wednesday's semi-final, had opened the scoring about 20 minutes into the second half when newcomer Hassan Nader scored with a header from a cross after a long run down the left by Mourad Jabrane.

But the host nation failed to impress in the unimpressive encounter which was witnessed by a paltry 15,000 in Casablanca's Mohamed V Stadium.

Not much was at stake, but some of the young Moroccan players used the match as an opportunity to stake a claim for a regular first team place.

Most of the Moroccan profes-

sionals returned to their clubs in Europe immediately after the semi-final defeat.

Newcomer Mustapha Kiddi and goalkeeper Nader combined well up front although Nader missed an easy chance midway through the first half.

Algeria had had the best of things early on. They split the Moroccan defence after 15 minutes with sharp passing before Ali Bouafia had a shot well-saved by Morocco's substitute goalkeeper Khalil Azmi.

Morocco dominated the second half, bringing the crowd alive, after only 10 minutes when Maataoui Tijani hit the cross bar with a strong long-range volley. Extra-time failed to separate the North African rivals.

A period of test for baseball players

NEW YORK (AP) — The problem is clear. Hitters are getting too far ahead of pitchers.

The solution is strange. Shrink the strike zone in the rulebook, call higher strikes in the games.

If it sounds confusing, it is. No one is sure what the effect will be, not even the umpires, who are trying to enforce the change in spring training.

"It's second nature to us what a strike is," said Joe Brinkman, an American League umpire for 16 seasons. "Now, we'll have to constantly think about it."

Raising the actual strike zone by a few inches (centimeters) could be the biggest batter-pitch adjustment in baseball since the mound was lowered after 1968.

Here's what's happening: The old rule defined the strike zone as between the batter's armpits and the top of his knees.

But in reality, anything above the belt was a ball, particularly in the low-ball National League.

The new rule brings back the letter-high strike. The upper limit will be the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants; the lower limit remains at the knees.

Technically, that is smaller than before. But the idea is that umpires will call those high strikes.

Hitters, who have seen home run totals go up to record rates, are not thrilled at seeing the strike zone go up, too.

"All our lives we've been taught to lay off that high pitch. It's a ball," Wade Boggs carped. "Now, do we have to swing at it?"

This season, Boggs and other batters do.

The players' union and owners have agreed to the change for a

one-year test period. After the season, both sides will review the results. Yet even if players don't want to continue the alterations, management can implement them in 1989.

Pitchers are excited about the strike zone becoming a twilight zone up top. Their strikeouts are at an all-time high, but they are giving up runs at an alarming pace.

Last year, 62 pitchers in the American League had earned run averages of over 6.00. Baltimore and Cleveland became the first AL teams with eras over 5.00 since 1956.

The National League, where scoring is about a half-run less because there is no designated hitter, is equally porous.

With higher strikes, those imbalanced numbers could come down.

"I heard about it in the off-season and I like it," said Dwight Gooden, who has always enjoyed success with rising, chest-high fastballs. "So I thought this spring that if I got ahead in the count, I'd go up there but I haven't noticed any difference."

That's because sometimes there isn't any.

"I have not changed my strike zone at all," said Bruce Froemming, an NL umpire for 18 years. "I've always been accused of having a high strike zone, but the League felt, as a group, we weren't calling the higher strike."

Brinkman's zone has expanded.

"I'm calling it about a ball higher," he said. "It doesn't sound like much, but it is. This will be a major adjustment."

"The first game I had behind the plate this spring, I called about seven or eight strikes that I would've called balls last year," Brinkman said. "There were ab-

out nine or 10 the next time."

High strike

Few batters have argued about high strikes in the exhibition season, in contrast to the protests pitchers and managers have lodged about increased balks.

That might change come opening day.

"It's still early in the spring," Brinkman said. "No one is saying much right now. Once the games count, it may not be that way."

No one is sure, and no one knows whether the change will more closely align the strike zones in the two leagues.

AL umpires have a reputation as high-balkers; NL umpires like low strikes.

The umpires, however, say there is little discrepancy.

"I don't think you can differentiate between the two leagues anymore," Froemming said. "A lot of that is because of the inside chest protector."

AL umpires used to employ

bulky outside protectors, which prevented them from tucking behind catchers. The leagues now use the same form-fitting inside protectors and all umpires get the same view.

That doesn't mean everyone has the same view of the new strike zone.

Terry Kennedy, an all-star catcher in both leagues, is caught in the middle. He wants more strikes for his pitchers, fewer strikes as a hitter.

And he doesn't like what he sees from either side.

"Why don't they just leave it alone?" Kennedy said. "Maybe they think pitching is too thin. But this is very unrealistic and not worth doing."

"Don't they have more important things in baseball to worry about instead of stupid rule changes?" he said. "Why don't they worry about the state of owner-player relations instead of trying to change the strike zone?"

India beats N. Zealand, reaches Sharjah Cup finals

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — India defeated New Zealand by 73 runs Sunday to enter the finals of the Sharjah Cup tournament.

India's Mohinder Amarnath, who cracked an unbeaten 102 and helped India to a massive total of 267 for 6, was declared man of the match.

India beat Sri Lanka Friday in the opening match of the three-way tournament.

The Indians lost the toss for the second time in the tournament and New Zealand put them in to bat.

K. Srikant was bowled by W. Watson on the eighth ball of the match and W.V. Raman was caught by M. Greatbatch off Richard Hadlee.

The New Zealanders' opening pace attack overwhelmed the Indians for the first 10 overs.

Hadlee, Watson and D. Morrison bowled brilliantly, moving the ball dangerously off the pitch. But Amarnath and N. Sidhu slowly settled down and began to score.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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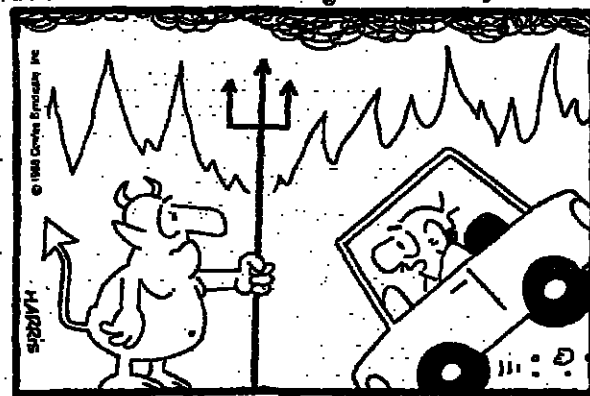
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q-1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♦ A8 ♣ 9874
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♦ A8 ♣ 9874
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What do you bid now?
- Q-2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ QJ762 ♠ 954 ♣ 872
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?
- Q-3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ QJ762 ♠ 954 ♣ 872
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What action do you take?
- Q-4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

- ♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♦ A8 ♣ 9874
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♦ A8 ♣ 9874
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- ♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♦ A8 ♣ 9874
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♦ A8 ♣ 9874
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- ♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♦ A8 ♣ 9874
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The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- ♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♦ A8 ♣ 9874
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♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♦ A8 ♣ 9874
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

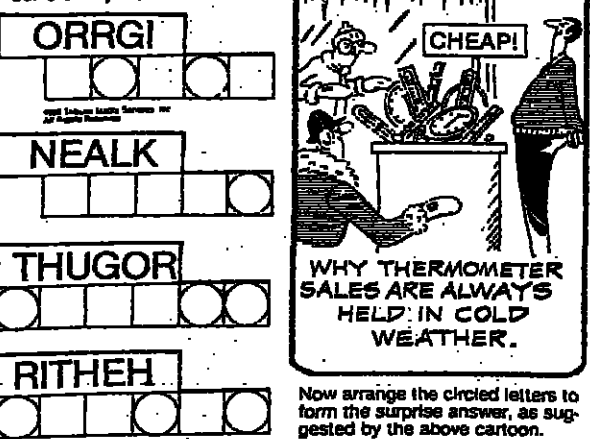
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: WHEN IT'S THEY'RE
Yesterday's Jumbles: TEASE FAIRY TROPHY NICETY
Answer: The little baseball player decided to become a Boy Scout so he could learn to do this—
"PITCH" A TENT

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Start the new week with the resolution that you will take no risks or make any changes, but will carry through with the sensible decisions you made during the weekend. Pay special attention to details.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) This is not a good time to let others know what your plans for the future are. Be cautious in handling civic affairs and driving tonight.

TALIBUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't bring any guests into your home today, and thereby avoid trouble. You should exercise extreme caution at all times.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An amusing situation at work will tempt you to run off to something else, but this would not be any better, so stay where you are.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't get into any get-rich-quick schemes, as the only thing you will get is broke. Don't violate your ethics for any reason.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you don't study every phase of a new project, you could make some big mistakes. Stop all that wishful thinking, and be more practical.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your intuition is not up to par at this

time, so don't make any snap judgments. Your mate is in a poor mood, so be soothing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You will have to rely completely on yourself today, as others will be too busy to help you. Avoid any arguments with your friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Find out what is expected of you by those in power, and do what you can to please them. Don't do anything that could ruin your reputation.

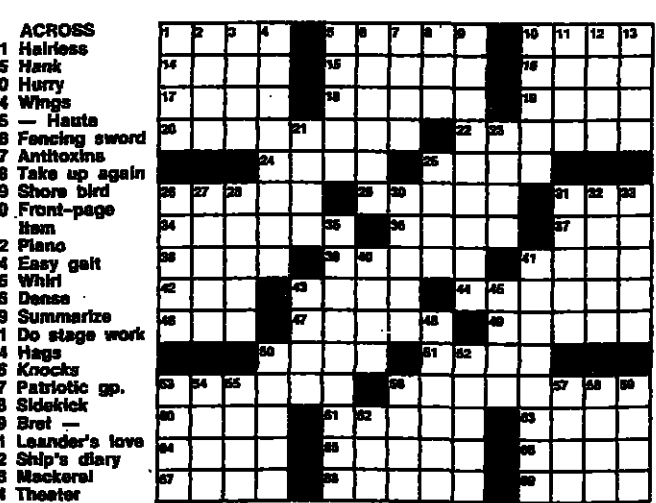
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you want to give some attention to a new project, be sure you don't neglect other activities. Take advice from a friend, but carefully.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may feel that you have too many responsibilities ahead of you, but handle them in your own orderly fashion and get good results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't sever your relationship with a good friend over a silly argument. Try to create a more cooperative atmosphere at your place of business.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take some time to handle those tasks which are not much fun, but have to be taken care of anyway. Don't let criticism bother you.

The Daily Commuter Puzzle



- ACROSS
1 Hairless
5 Hank
10 Harry
14 Wings
15 — Haste
16 Fencing sword
17 Anthrax
18 Take up again
19 Shore bird
20 Front-page
21 Piano
22 Easy gait
25 Whirl
26 Dense
27 Summarize
30 Do stage work
34 Hags
36 Knocks
37 Patriotic op.
38 Sidelick
39 Brel
41 Learner's love
42 Ship's glory
43 Macabral
44 Theater district
46 Comp. pt.
47 Ready
48 Slumber
50 — monster
51 Ridge of coral
53 Flogging
56 Tails a
57 shortcut
60 Flendish
61 In reserve
62 Social lion?
64 Lanky
65 Versa feature
68 Royal stables
69 Building wings
66 Use energy
68 Palliate
- DOWN
1 Wild party
2 Nautical word
3 Zulu's love
4 Publication
6 Denude
7 Shepher
8 Shorn bird
9 Wrath
10 Journal
11 Over
12 Patched
13 Ardor
14 One vein
15 Dice spots
16 Kind of jazz
17 Weighing machine
18 Hunter constellation
19 In
20 Lapse
21 An Astaire
22 Menu
23 Company
25 Swindle
26 District
27 Football game pause
28 limit
29 Abel's brother
30 Words of comprehension
31 Merchant
32 Liquid measures
33 Chris of tennis
34 Fountain or Rose
35 Ellipse
36 Window ledge
37 Location
38 Impression
39 Cuts
40 down
41 Different
42 Gender

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Banks refuse to open

Pro-Noriega troops crack down on strike

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Troops loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega raided Panama City's port area, seized control of flour mills and shut down a union hall while the army threatened to use force to reopen the nation's banks.

Banks ignored the threats Saturday, and dockworkers stayed away from work as part of a general strike called by opposition leaders trying to force Noriega from power.

Noriega announced Friday that soldiers would seize flour from the nation's mills, apparently to distribute to Panamanians who have been short of food because of the strike.

Defiant mill owners retaliated by announcing they were donating the flour to the Roman Catholic Church's food programme for the needy, but troops began raiding the mills before donations could begin.

Esther Kwaiben, treasurer of the Church's programme, said more than 1.3 million pounds (590,000 kilograms) of flour stored in the mills apparently had been taken to government warehouses.

At the Harinas Panama Mill, the general manager, Tirso Wolf-schoon, his wife and other company employees were arrested. At General Mills de Panama, troops kicked out all the employees and took over the plant.

Noriega opponents got a boost when groups representing 55,000 retirees announced they will join nationwide street demonstrations the National Civic Crusade has

called for Monday.

"We will block the streets of this country. Let the president come and speak to us in the street," said retiree Manuel Escudero.

Noriega controls Panama through the 15,000-member defence forces that he heads. But that control could weaken the longer his soldiers go without pay. Their payday was Friday, but because of Panama's current cash crisis, they didn't receive money.

Troops raid capital

Armed troops raided the capital's port before dawn, moving aside several ship containers that had been blocking the entrance-way to the docks since March 14, when the port's 300 workers went out on strike because they had not been paid.

A few hours later, the nearby union headquarters was wired shut and scores of workers who had been keeping vigil disappeared. National Port Director General Diomedes Concepcion denied reports that some had been arrested.

"The port had to be opened," Concepcion told reporters, adding "if not, we are aiding the enemy."

Noriega reiterated threats to force banks to hand over an

estimated \$70 million in their vaults so the government could pay its troops.

But the Panamanian Bankers Association, which groups 90 of the 118 Panamanian and foreign banks operating in this country, rejected the request.

The government's request "does not solve the problem of the fiscal and financial crisis of the nation that has deep political roots," said a statement by the group.

Panama ran short of cash last month after U.S. officials blocked all Panamanian funds in the United States, including revenues from the Panama Canal.

Mexico condemns U.S. pressure

In Cancun, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Saturday condemned efforts to force Noriega to quit and called it a form of interference in that country's internal affairs.

"We urge that through re-election and dialogue it be the Panamanian people who determine their political future," de la Madrid said, referring to the pressures exerted by the Reagan administration on Noriega to relinquish power, although he did not mention the United States by name.

De la Madrid spoke at a news conference after reviewing the situation in Central America during two days of talks with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala in the Caribbean beach resort of Cancun on the tip of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

Ortega calls for U.N. force on Honduras

MANAGUA (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said he had told a United Nations technical commission visiting the Nicaragua-Honduras border that a multinational peacekeeping force was necessary to stabilise the area.

Nicaragua also announced its delegation for a meeting with contra representatives Monday to define where rebel fighters can locate inside Nicaragua under the ceasefire accord reached in Sapoa last week.

Ortega told reporters he had told Gilberto Schlittler, head of the U.N. delegation, Saturday night that "it is important to achieve the stabilisation of the border zone with Honduras, and this is only possible with a multi-lateral force."

The U.N. team inspected the border Thursday and Friday, the scene of a reported incursion into Honduras by Sandinista Army troops pursuing contra rebels. U.S. President Ronald Reagan cited the incursion as the reason for sending 3,100 American troops to Honduras on March 17 at the request of Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo.

Ortega said that without a peacekeeping force, "the United States can continue heating up the border... provoking conflicts, increasing its presence to threaten Nicaragua and... kill the Sapoa accords."

The Sandinistas and contras agreed to a 60-day ceasefire beginning April 1 during their peace talks last week in Sapoa, near the Costa Rican border.

Ortega called on the United States to respect the agreement, saying the United States "must cease its military and logistical aid to the counterrevolutionary forces and simply limit itself to medical aid and basic food" items.

He said Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras had indicated his government was predisposed to "the establishment of a multinational force" on the border in a speech before the Organisation of American states on Nov. 11.

The 100 political prisoners to be released Sunday by the government as part of a gradual amnesty under the accord will be free to remain in Nicaragua or leave, Ortega said.

Jackson blows past Dukakis

DETROIT (AP) — Jesse Jackson won Michigan's primary-like caucuses Saturday, blowing past Michael Dukakis for an industrial state victory that tightened the Democratic presidential race. For Richard Gephardt, third place meant the end was near for his White House hopes.

Jackson defeated Dukakis by almost 2:1 by running strongly across the state and winning huge majorities in Detroit. That broad support meant the preacher-turned-politician scored a delegate plurality as well.

"Today is a message of hope," Jackson said in Milwaukee. "People are responding to authenticity and message and soul over just money and mechanics."

"This is not my night alone," he said. "When we, the working people, stand together, we win and we make America stronger."

It was a disappointing night for Dukakis, who has been tried to break away from Jackson to become the frontrunner for the 1988 nomination.

"I don't think I did very well in Michigan," the Massachusetts governor said as he congratulated Jackson.

The news was not all bad for Dukakis as he picked up a win Saturday in North Dakota and was gaining strength in the Iowa county conventions.

Gephardt's hoped-for "Michigan miracle" did not happen.

Aides had said the Missouri congressman probably would withdraw from the presidential race and file for reelection to his congressional seat after such poor



Jesse Jackson

results.

"We're going to go home tomorrow and meet with our family and we'll have some word for you the first of next week..." Gephardt said in Milwaukee. "We haven't decided anything. We're going to go home and have a family meeting."

With returns from 94 per cent of the voting sites in Michigan, Jackson had 107,689 or 55 per cent to 55,337 or 28 per cent for Dukakis. Gephardt had 24,995, or 15 per cent.

Senator Paul Simon of Illinois had 4,069 for 2 per cent and Senator Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee had 3,818 for 2 per cent. Neither man put significant resources into the state.

Jackson won enormous majorities in Detroit, which has a large black population. In the 1st congressional district, Jackson beat Dukakis 25,427 to 1,808 and in

the 13th, the margin was 17,715 to 1,536.

The Michigan raw votes translated into national convention delegates. Initial calculations gave Jackson 61, Dukakis 43, Gephardt 22, and 12 undecided among the 138 pledged delegates.

In North Dakota, the precinct caucus results made this the preliminary split for national convention delegates: Dukakis, 5; Jackson, 3; and Gephardt, 2. Five would go as uncommitted delegates.

These results tightened the delegate race a bit. In the AP delegate count, Dukakis has 596.55 to Jackson's 584.55. Gore had 362.8 delegates, Gephardt 178, Simon 171.5 and uncommitted 371.6.

Dukakis picked up strength in the Iowa county conventions, while Gephardt slipped. Gephardt won the Feb. 8 precinct caucuses there, but he was trailing Dukakis in returns from the county meetings, the next step in the complicated delegate-selection process.

Gephardt's hopes for a win were hurt by the refusal of national labour union leaders to fall in behind his candidacy. He particularly felt the failure to win an endorsement from the United Auto Workers, big supporters of Gephardt's trade policies and the biggest union in the state.

Dukakis built an impressive organisation in this industrial state, where he hoped a win would give him a large share of the delegates as well as a popular vote victory.

Armenian protest strike continues

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet authorities confirmed Sunday that most factories were idle in the disputed Azerbaijani region Nagorno-Karabakh, where dissidents said a three-day protest strike started Friday.

"Public order is being maintained, there is a relative calm in Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region. But the majority of enterprises in the regional centre of Stepanakert are idle," the Communist Party Daily Pravda said.

Moscow dissident Valery Senderov said in an interview Saturday that a three-day strike in the city had been accompanied by demonstrations demanding return of the territory, governed by Azerbaijan since 1923, to Armenia.

Soviet newspapers Sunday described the situation in other parts of Azerbaijan and Armenia as normal, with people going about the streets as usual and all factories working.

Hundreds of troops and extra police moved into the Armenian capital, Yerevan, Thursday to enforce a ban by the local authorities on demonstrations.

The organisers of a planned mass rally in the city to protest against the Kremlin's refusal to redraw the boundaries of the republics switched tactics after the ban.

Rallies in Latvia, Estonia

Meanwhile, a number of people were detained at rallies in the Soviet Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia Friday, the Soviet news agency TASS said Saturday.

Latvian dissident Ronalds Gaubis earlier told reporters by telephone that he and 14 others were seized by security officials during a rally in Riga in memory of Latvians deported to Siberia by the late Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Angola reportedly repels S. African advance

LISBON (AP) — Angolan government forces have repelled a South African advance against the strategic southern town of Cuito Cuanavale, killing 18 black South African soldiers and destroying four tanks, the official news agency ANGOP said Saturday.

The agency quoted an unidentified military source as saying South Africa used long-range G-5 artillery pieces, Mirage fighter

planes, helicopters, cannons and mortars in a weeklong drive against the besieged town that ended Wednesday. The report was monitored in Lisbon.

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Ershad dissolves cabinet

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad dissolved his 30-member cabinet and officials said he was expected to appoint a smaller government team later Sunday.

"The president has dissolved the cabinet," the state radio said in a brief bulletin.

Ershad had planned to streamline the government following parliamentary elections early this month won by his ruling Jatiya Party with 251 of 300 assembly seats.

The surprise dissolution of the cabinet occurred a day before he was due to start a state visit to Thailand.

"There's no reason why the visit should not take place," a

foreign ministry official said, speaking before news of the reshuffle was announced. "Everything is under control."

"The visit is taking place at the invitation of the Thai royal government and will focus on the close political and economic ties," he added.

Diplomats said the Thailand trip showed he was little shaken by months of opposition protests, including a series of general strikes, aimed at ending his six-year-old rule.

"He wouldn't have undertaken the trip if he faced any serious danger in the country," one Asian diplomat said.

Government sources said a majority of ministers would re-

tain their jobs.

The outgoing cabinet was appointed last August. Two of its most powerful members — Information Minister Anwar Zahid and Health Minister Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury — resigned in February over differences with Ershad about the elections.

Major opposition parties boycotted the violence-packed polls on March 3 as part of a protracted campaign to topple Ershad. A coalition of 21 opposition parties has now asked him to resign by April 8 or face an indefinite general strike.

Police said at least 15 people were killed and 200 injured in bombings and gunbattles between rival groups during the vote.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Thousands march for women's rights

ROME (AP) — Tens of thousands of people marched through central Rome Saturday to call for more job opportunities for women and tougher laws against sexual abuse. Organisers estimated that 100,000 people took part in the mid-afternoon demonstration in which marchers slowly made their way across the city's historic centre. The marchers, men and women, came from all parts of Italy by car, train and special buses. They carried banners, chanted slogans and blew whistles. The demonstration was organised by the country's three main labour federations, whose slogan for the protest was "a job for everyone, a different kind of work, a society without violence." They are seeking more jobs and better working conditions for women, including more flexible schedules for working mothers.

Fiji premier en route to London

LONDON (AP) — Fiji's prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, is travelling to London for a private visit, the British Foreign Office said Sunday, but news reports said he is on a mission to restore links with the British Crown. Ratu Sir Kamisese is scheduled to meet Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe Tuesday, said a Foreign Office spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom. He will meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Tuesday to discuss matters related to Fiji's new constitution, a spokesman for her office said. The Australian Associated Press (AAP) reported he would also see George Newman, the British constitutional law expert who has been advising Fijian President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, to discuss restoring links with the crown. Both AAP and the Observer, a London newspaper, said he was scheduled to meet Sir William Heseltine, private secretary to Queen Elizabeth II, before leaving Britain Thursday.

Guerrillas end 116-day hunger strike

PARIS (R) — Four jailed guerrilla leaders have ended a 116-day hunger strike but aim to continue their campaign to win political prisoner status, their lawyer said Saturday. Bernard Ripert, lawyer for the ringleaders of France's extreme left Action Directe group, told Reuters the four gave up their fast Friday. A Justice Ministry spokesman said the government had made "no deals or promises" with the four who had simply "returned to reason." Ripert said Jean-Marc Rouillan, Nathalie Menigon, Joelle Aubron and Georges Cipriani planned to "continue their struggle in another form." They had refused food from Dec. 1 to force prison authorities to put an end to months of strict isolation in high security jails.

Ramos proposes use of reservists

MANILA (R) — The Philippines defence chief has proposed using the country's one million army reservists in the war against left and right-wing rebel groups. "Our reservists should be ready when called upon for duty during emergencies... to counter the Communist insurgency and the (Muslim) separatist movement and other threats besetting us today," Fidel Ramos told air force reservists. "We are presently not at war, but the time to prepare for war and its prevention is during the time of peace." The defence secretary's call came amid military warnings that Communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels would increase attacks in the run-up to the 19th anniversary of the founding of the guerrilla army on March 29.

Nicaraguan accord seems a victory for Sandinistas, defeat for Reagan

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The ceasefire agreement signed this past week between Nicaragua and the contra rebels may represent the most significant turning point for that country since the United States first began backing the insurgents in 1981.

Barring unexpected developments, the agreement could bring the war to an end and leave the ruling Sandinistas with a firm grip on power. The Sandinistas have ruled Nicaragua since their 1979 revolution.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan expended considerable political capital over the years trying to convince his countrymen that Sandinista power, left unchecked, would mean a Soviet beachhead in Central America and grave national security risks for the United States.

But Reagan was unable to muster consistent majority support for his policy. Too many legislators felt that the human costs of sustaining the war were too high when compared with the benefits Reagan saw in trying to overthrow the Sandinistas.

The price paid by Nicaraguans over the past seven years has been obvious. The war has claimed more than 40,000 lives and left the economy in a shambles.

The policy never had much enthusiastic support beyond the conservative wing of Reagan's Republican Party. In Latin America, it was difficult to find any president willing to express support for contra aid, even in those Central American countries which Reagan said would be most affected by the collapse of the rebels.

For all the energy Reagan spent in support of the contras, Congress approved only about \$209 million for them over seven years — equivalent to what the White House says the Soviet Union provides to the Sandinistas every few months. During the he-



Announcing accord: Organisation of American States (OAS) Secretary Jojo Suarez reads the accord signed last week by Nicaragua's Sandinista government and the contra rebels, flanked by (from left)

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and contra leaders Cesar and Adolfo Calero

light of the Vietnam war, the United States committed thousands of troops and spent that much every few days.

For the U.S., it's over

Now, it appears there is little the United States can do to influence events in Nicaragua. The administration has used extensive diplomatic and economic pressures to force the Sandinistas' hand with minimal results, and now it has been deprived of what Reagan and the contras believe is their most effective lever — military pressure. The best contras can hope for now is a humanitarian aid package that Congress consider next week.

Given its past statements, the White House may try to take advantage of the new mood of reconciliation in Nicaragua and explore how to achieve a more normal relationship with the Sandinistas. There have been no se-

rious talks between the two governments in more than three years.

There are several theoretical scenarios under which what was done last week could be undone, and the war resumed. Under

NEWS ANALYSIS

White House prodding, Congress would decide to commit itself next week to an early vote on additional contra military aid if the peace process breaks down and Reagan makes an aid request.

But it appears a majority in Congress, worn down by the contra aid issue, does not want to give the president that authority.

Contra surrender likely
The most likely outcome is a

contra surrender to terms set forth by the Sandinistas during talks due to start April 6 on a permanent truce.

Under the agreement, the contras will be allowed to take their arms with them to mutually agreed ceasefire zones. But their supplies are running low, there is little prospect for replenishment, and nothing prevents the Sandinista Army from surrounding these zones while talks on a permanent settlement are carried out. The contras will be at a severe disadvantage.

After a year in which the contras had emerged as an effective fighting force, dispatching thousands of troops into Nicaragua from sanctuaries in Honduras, 1988 has marked a steady downward spiral.

The U.S. House of Representatives defeated a key contra aid vote Feb. 3, and Congress

ments Feb. 29. The contras agreed less than a month later to a ceasefire proposal that fell far short of their demands even though they won some concessions from the Sandinistas, including the promise of free speech and contra participation in a national dialogue.

The White House has praised the agreement, but this is one instance in which there is a wide gap between the publicly stated view and the private assessment.

Officials felt it was inappropriate to criticise the contras for signing an agreement after a lack of U.S. steadfastness forced their hand.

"The contras made their own decision, and they made it courageously; and we must not do anything to undo it," said White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker in an interview on News Network.

COLUMN

New hope for paralysed men

DETROIT (R) — A U.S. research team is making the dream of fathering a child a reality for men paralysed by spinal cord injury and others who have lost the ability to ejaculate semen because of permanent neurological damage. The technique, developed in the 19th century for use in animal husbandry and refined at the University of Michigan, induces the release of semen with a low-voltage impulse delivered by a rectal probe. Conception is achieved either through artificial insemination or in vitro fertilisation. Researchers say the procedure, which is called "Electroejaculation," may also help those with testicular cancer, multiple sclerosis or a variety of other disorders that block the nerve signal required to trigger normal ejaculation. Electroejaculation was adapted for use in humans in about 1940 but until the University of Michigan research team, led by urologist Carol Bennett, began in 1985 to refine the technique, its success rate was patchy.

Mete it out, judge

CAIRO (AP) — A Cairo court has sentenced three workers to death by hanging and ordered three others be imprisoned for life for raping a 15-year-old student. Egyptian newspapers reported Saturday. The sentence, issued Friday, is the most severe punishment to be meted out in recent memory on so many convicts in a single rape case. "If there were a more severe punishment in the law, I would have meted it out on you," newspapers' accounts quoted the court's president, Judge Antoun Basily, as addressing the convicts before reading the sentence. The convicts abducted the girl last August while walking in a Cairo street and took her to an apartment where they raped her after overcoming a relative who was in her company.

Revenge of the monkeys

RIYADH (AP) — A clan of monkeys roaming Saudi Arabia's southern desert attacked a motorist who ran over one of their number, the Okaz newspaper reported Sunday. It said the motorist was driving to work when he killed the monkey on a highway in the Khams Mesheit region. The paper did not identify the man. It quoted him as saying the other monkeys chased his car, but gave up when they could not catch it. The man said that as he drove home later on the same road, he found the monkeys still gathered round the body. When they spotted the car, they jumped on it and smashed the windows with their bare hands. The driver succeeded in evading them and as he sped off, saw the monkeys dragging away the body of their dead companion into nearby mountains, the paper added.

Pole-sitter lands

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AP) — Melissa L. Sanders climbed into the bucket of a firefighters extension ladder with her pet cat and returned to earth Thursday after a record 517 days sitting atop a 13-metre pole. "My knees are wobbly but I feel great," said Sanders, embraced by her mother, Mauri Rose Sanders. "Without the cat, I would never have made it," Sanders, 19, broke the world record Feb. 25 when she overtook the 488-day mark set by Mark Sutton of Victoria, British Columbia. She now is in the Guinness Book of World Records. Her fiancé, Keith Seal, 25, greeted her on the ground. They met after Seal read an article about her effort to raise money for cancer research and telephoned her. About 1,000 people gathered to watch Sanders' descent from the shack she called home for 1½ years.

Soldier of Fortune gets caught

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — A U.S. federal judge Thursday upheld a \$9.4 million judgment against Soldier of Fortune magazine for publishing an advertisement which led to the murder of a Texas woman by a paid hitman. Sandra Black was killed in 1985 by John Wayne Hearn, who had been hired by her husband Robert after he had seen the ad, which referred to ex-marines who were seeking "high-risk assignments" in the United States or abroad. Judge David Hittner ordered the magazine to pay the award to the woman's mother and son after a jury earlier this month found it negligent for printing the ad. Both men are now in jail. Black has been sentenced to death.